

STARS AND STRIPES®

**'Assault' remake
just one of many
projects for Hawke**

Page 21

Ethan Hawke

**Warning: Smoking
may be hazardous
to your job**

Page 10



**After slow start,
Houston Rockets
into playoff picture**

Back page

Tracy McGrady (11), Yao Ming and Jon Barry (20)

Volume 63, No. 285 © SS 2005 G

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2005

50¢

3 al-Zarqawi aides caught

- U.S. troops to play support role in Sunday's historic election Page 7
- 5 GIs killed in bombings; U.S. helo crashes in Baghdad Page 8
- Iraqi expatriates head to polls Page 6
- Bush: U.S. would leave if asked Page 7



AP photos



Above: An unidentified Iraqi woman casts an absentee ballot Friday at a polling station in Istanbul, Turkey. Iraqis will go to the polls in their homeland Sunday, voting for an interim 275-member national assembly that will write a new constitution for the country. Right: Iraqi voter Athar Mudhafer of Foster, Va., gives the peace sign after casting his absentee ballot Friday in New Carrollton, Md. The voters have to give a fingerprint, and the blue ink insures that they only vote one time.

STARS & STRIPES

COMING
SOON

Scene on Sunday

Super Bowl treats
are sure to score

Scene on Sunday

Ice Cube stars in
'Are We There Yet?'Don't miss a
single issue.For home delivery,
call DSN 349-8437

STARS & STRIPES

Your Hometown Newspaper

TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....	24
American Roundup.....	18-19
Classified.....	25-27
Comics.....	22-24
Crossword.....	23
Faces.....	21
Horoscope.....	22
Letters.....	18
Opinion.....	15
Sports.....	27-36
TV listings.....	20
Weather.....	17
Your Money.....	16

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

Business

Sears-Kmart deal: The waiting period required under antitrust law has expired for discount retailer Kmart Holding Corp.'s planned \$11 billion acquisition of the Sears, Roebuck and Co. department store chain, the companies said Friday.

The waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act expired at the end of the day Thursday, the companies said. It is required to allow the Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice time to examine any anti-competitive implications of mergers and acquisitions.

The deal, which is expected to close in early March and create the nation's third-largest retailer, is subject to approval by Kmart and Sears shareholders as well as other regulatory approvals.

Riggs Bank scandal: Riggs Bank has pleaded guilty to failing to report suspicious transactions in the accounts of foreigners, including former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, and agreed to pay a \$16 million fine.

In its aggressive courtship of foreign political figures to win their banking business, the old-line Washington, D.C., bank failed to exercise oversight and aided their illegitimate use of the bank, federal prosecutors said Thursday.

It would be the largest criminal penalty ever imposed on a bank of Riggs' size, according to prosecutors, and comes after a record \$25 million civil fine levied on the bank by a Treasury Department agency last May.

The plea agreement still needs the approval of U.S. District Judge Ricardo Urbina, who expressed some skepticism about the penalty's adequacy at a hearing Thursday.

HealthSouth fraud case: An accountant who pored over HealthSouth's books for the government in its case against fired CEO Richard Scrushy testified that earnings were inflated by \$2.7 billion from 1996 through 2002.

The false financial statements were not the result of aggressive accounting practices, as the defense might suggest, said forensic accountant Harvey Kelly.

"It was just flat-out making up numbers," he said.

Kelly's testimony Thursday came after Scrushy's defense tried to damage the credibility of a key witness in the government's criminal case, HealthSouth co-founder Aaron Beam.

Scrushy is accused of conspiring with HealthSouth executives to overstate earnings in order to meet analyst expectations, boosting company shares and enriching himself by millions.

States

Forgotten-diver suit: A diver who drifted for five hours after a boat crew left him at sea has sued the diving company for \$4 million.

Daniel Carlock Jr. filed a lawsuit Thursday in Los Angeles Superior Court against Ocean Adventures Dive Co. and its employees, accusing them of negligence, inflicting emotional distress and fraud.

Carlock, 46, alleges Ocean Adventures left him off Santa Catalina Island on April 25, 2004, then lied about his location, delaying his rescue for five hours. He was eventually rescued by Boy Scouts in the area.



Wash. chemical fire: Martha Landa holds her six-month-old son, Alexander, near their cots at a Red Cross shelter in the Sunnyside (Wash.) Community Center on Thursday. A chemical fire continued to smolder Thursday in Grandview, Wash., where about 100 homes remained evacuated due to potentially toxic smoke.

World

Deadly-doctor investigation: A judge on Thursday identified up to 15 new victims of Britain's worst serial killer, Harold Shipman, bringing the total number of people killed by the family doctor to about 250. The government said it will review patient safety.

Judge Janet Smith, who heads an inquiry into Shipman's crimes, said that he killed up to 15 patients while working as a trainee doctor at Pontefract General Infirmary in northern England between 1971 and 1974.

Shipman, who committed suicide in his prison cell last year, was convicted in 2000 of killing 15 other patients while working as a family physician in Hyde, near Manchester in northern England.

In its first report, the inquiry determined that he had killed at least 200 more over a period of 23 years.

Casablanca terror attack: Italy's top criminal court has blocked the extradition to Morocco of a terror suspect alleged to have been involved in the 2003 Casablanca suicide bombing, news reports said Thursday.

Mohammed Rafik, a Moroccan who has lived in Italy since 1998, was arrested in October 2003 with two other Moroccan men. They were all alleged to have ties to the Muslim extremist movement Salafia Jihadia, which Moroccan officials have blamed for the Casablanca attack.

Rafik has denied the charges.

Kosovo war crimes: A Serb army general sought by the U.N. war crimes tribunal for alleged atrocities committed in Kosovo will surrender voluntarily, the government said Friday, amid intense pressure to hand over him and others from the United States and the European Union.

Gen. Vladimir Lazarevic, a military commander in Kosovo during the 1999 war in the province, will surrender to the tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, by the end of next week, said a government statement.

The statement added that Lazarevic agreed to surrender after a meeting with Serbia's Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica. Lazarevic reportedly told Kostunica that he was innocent but that it was his duty to "help his country."

Afghan election: President Hamid Karzai on Friday urged organizers of Afghanistan's parliamentary election to hold the vote this spring, but acknowledged an uphill struggle to keep the country's democratic transition on schedule.

Afghans are supposed to elect members for a National Assembly in April or May, though most observers expect a delay because U.S. and Afghan organizers are not ready. Foreign Minister Abdullah said Thursday the vote should be postponed until summer.

The election would complete a U.N.-sponsored process to restore the Afghan political system begun after a U.S. bombing campaign drove out the former Taliban government at the end of 2001.

Terror arrests in Pakistan: Police arrested 23 Afghans in raids in the Pakistani border city of Quetta on suspicion of links with Taliban and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, officials said Friday.

The suspects, who included a former deputy governor and ex-police chief in Kabul, were captured from three neighborhoods of the city late Thursday and were being interrogated, said Chaudhry Mohammed Yaqub, the police chief in southwestern Baluchistan province, of which Quetta is the capital.

He said the detainees had held "important positions during Taliban's tenure" in Afghanistan, and "we suspect that some of them have close links with al-Qaida."

Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Israel's army chief ordered troops to halt operations in the Gaza Strip on Friday and to scale back raids in the West Bank, as hundreds of Palestinian police deployed in the volatile central and southern parts of the territory.

The army chief, Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon, said Israeli troops could only go after militants with his approval. The order would significantly limit Israeli military action against extremist groups — but was still short of a public declaration of a cease-fire sought by Palestinians to seal a truce with militants.

The call upon the Israelis to announce a full stop of violence against Palestinians everywhere, to match our commitment to stop violence against Israelis everywhere," Palestinian Cabinet minister Sheik Erekat said.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

Check out your favorite
comic strips every day
in Stars and Stripes

Correction

A story in Friday's editions about Stars and Stripes hiring a contractor to print the newspaper contained inaccurate information. Currently, Stars and Stripes is printing about 20,000 newspapers at its plant in Griesheim, Germany, for distribution in Germany, England, Belgium, Spain and the Balkans.

U.S. patients urged to use on-base numbers

In an emergency, calling Italians directly can complicate care, hospital officials say

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Some Americans living in Italy don't know they can dial 118 for emergency ambulance care.

In part, that's by design. Medical and security officials of Naval Support Activity, Naples, don't advertise it, and actually prefer

Americans to call the base-run emergency phone number, even if it's to dispatch an Italian ambulance, hospital spokesman Chief Mike Harper said.

"We don't try to have the patients self-diagnose," he said. The Navy-run Alarm Control Center and the base hospital's emergency room are staffed with professionals who can help determine what level of care a patient might need, and if an Italian ambulance is determined to be what's needed, they can dispatch one out, Harper said.

"If you are a patient who doesn't speak Italian and you call 118, you will have some language barriers there," he said, citing a primary reason base officials prefer Americans to call the U.S. emergency line

of 911 or on base or 081-568-4911 off base.

But Americans should be educated to all options available to them, in case they need to make an educated choice, said 68-year-old Dick Clark, the recipient of Italian emergency medicine in November 2001 after a car plowed into him as he was riding a mountain bike about a half-mile from his home.

As a former senior master chief, and then civilian security guard working at NSA Naples, he was aware of the 118 system.

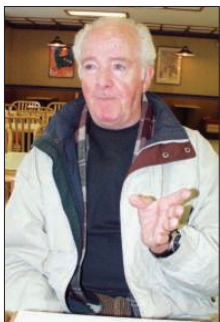
"But many others aren't. They don't know about it, and they should," said Clark, who suffered four broken ribs and a collapsed lung in the crash. A bystander

called 118 and an ambulance crew rushed Clark to S. Maria Della Grazie in Pozzuoli. He said he received exceptional emergency care from the ambulance crew and the surgeons and intensive care unit staff at the Italian hospital.

Unlike the U.S. emergency phone system, Italy has separate numbers for different emergency services. The emergency number for Carabinieri is 112, police is 113 and fire is 115. The national medical emer-

"If you are a patient who doesn't speak Italian and you call 118, you will have some language barriers there."

Chief Mike Harper
hospital spokesman



SANDRA JONTZ/Stars and Stripes

Former senior chief petty officer Dick Clark, 68, credits Italy's emergency 118 service with saving his life after a 2001 accident and thinks Americans should be informed of the emergency telephone service.

gency hot line is active 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and networked with hospitals that will dispatch ambulances closest to an emergency patient's location. Emergency crews determine what hospital facility is best to aid the patient.

When 118 is dialed from any fixed or

mobile telephone in Italy, a medical operations center responds that is staffed by physicians or emergency-trained personnel.

Much ado was made over the opening of the \$42 million U.S. Naval Hospital on the family support complex in Gricignano in July 2003, but the 180,000-square-foot facility amounts to "little more than a big clinic," said one hospital employee who asked not to be identified.

While the hospital has an emergency room, it does not have facilities to treat serious trauma cases or a cardiologist for heart attacks, for example, Harper said.

Services available at the hospital include an allergy clinic, audiology clinic, behavioral health clinic, counseling and assistance center, dental clinic, educational and developmental intervention services, family practice clinic, immunization clinic, internal medicine clinic, military sick call, obstetrics/gynecology clinic, ophthalmology/optometry clinic, orthopedic clinic, pediatric clinic, physical examinations, physical therapy, surgery clinic and travel medicine, according to a listing Harper provided.

If an American is taken to an Italian hospital, the receiving hospital usually notifies U.S. officials and one of the hospital's three translators are sent out if needed, Harper said.

"They give us a call and we bring in our liaison staff right away," he said.

In the event a liaison officer isn't sent, patients can call the hospital guard post at DSN 629-6155 or commercial 081-811-6155.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at:
jontzs@mail.strips.osd.mil

Hanau, Camp Darby commissaries take top honors in Europe

BY KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

When it comes to grocery shopping, Camp Darby, Italy, and Hanau, Germany, apparently are the places to go in Europe.

The Defense Commissary Agency-Europe announced Thursday that its stores at the two locations have been honored as the best in Europe. They'll now compete against the top commissaries from the Pacific to determine the best stores outside the States.

Michael Dowling, the director of DECA-Europe, said the designations are significant.

"Every store would like to have a best large or best small commissary trophy in their trophy case," he said in a release.

Both stores have won numerous awards over the years and each is managed by a longtime DECA employee.

Hanau, which opened on Wolfgang Casern in 1986, was selected as the top large commissary. The facility is much older than stores in locations such as Heidelberg, Mannheim and Vogelweh.

Store director Riccardo Liefort said the appearance of the building plays only a small part in the judging.

Customer satisfaction gauged through surveys, department-by-department reviews, product displays and managing costs also play a role.

The store's annual sales of \$15.6 million ranked behind only four other commissaries in Europe, Liefort said. Its 91 American and local national employees also are responsible for operations in Gelhausen and Bidingen.

Liefort, who has worked for DECA since 1976, said the Hanau community should be proud of the designation.

"We don't always get much of the spotlight here," he said, com-

"Every store would like to have a best large or best small commissary trophy in their trophy case."

Michael Dowling
director, DECA-Europe



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

The commissary in Hanau, Germany, was named best large commissary in Europe by DECA-Europe.

pared to larger military communities in Germany.

The spotlight seemingly is always shining on the commissary at Camp Darby, which seems to win small category commissary honors every year.

"No, not every year," said store director Giuseppe Ricci, with a laugh.

Darby, a small base whose pop-

ulation grows with American tourists in the summer, is the only one of 59 DECA facilities in Europe that has a work force entirely made up of local national employees. Its 27 Italian employees sell about \$2.7 million worth of products annually.

Ricci, who has been working at the store since 1991, is the first Italian to manage the store. He de-

scribes the secret to the store's success in one word: "Teamwork."

Liefort is well aware of the history of success at Darby. He was the store manager there in 1994 when it earned best small commissary honors outside the States.

E-mail Kent Harris at:
harris@mail.strips.osd.mil

General: Families a valuable resource

During deployment, spouses at home
urged to take care of each other

BY RON JENSEN
Stars and Stripes

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — The 48th Fighter Wing commander urged families to look out for one another while more than 1,100 members of the wing are deployed to various countries in the Middle East.

During a town hall meeting Thursday evening, Brig. Gen. Mark T. Matthews told spouses of deployed airmen to watch for anyone having a tough time during the separation.

"If you see someone who needs some help, help them," he said. "I don't want anyone left out."

This month's departure of troops marks the third time the wing has deployed in Matthews' 18 months as commander. Each time, he said, he worries more about the people left behind than the folks downrange, he said, and urged the spouses to keep an eye on them as well.

"These are the people who have to pick up the workload while your spouses are deployed," he said. "Talk to your peers. How's your husband?" The meeting followed a monthly free supper for spouses and families of deployed troops at the Knight's Table dining facility. Several groups on base take turns providing the meal under the auspices of the Family Support Center. About 200 meals were served Thursday evening.

Matthews answered questions and talked about upcoming events on the base for one hour, highlighting programs for spouses and children offered on the base.

"We're one team and we consider family members part of that team," the general said.

Nancy Adams, who coordinates child care at the base, discussed the various programs on base for child care, including one called Extended Duty Care for when spouses have classes or doctor appointments and no one to look after children.

When a mother of teenagers asked about activities for that age group, the general turned the floor over to Laurel Edgar, who coordinates such things on the base. She said events are held each month for teens, including a shopping trip to London next month.

"We would love to see a lot more participation," she said.

Some questions strayed from the deployment to other issues. One person asked about the safety of traffic lining up on the road at the entrance to RAF Lakenheath. She said a car passing the line nearly hit her as she left the base.

Col. Neal McElhannon, commander of the 48th Mission Sup-



RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Trinitty Cobb, 3, eats a spaghetti dinner Thursday at the Knight's Table dining hall on RAF Lakenheath, England. The daughter of Staff Sgt. Rhannie and Staff Sgt. Mitchell Cobb, she attended a free meal for spouses and family members of deployed troops. A town hall meeting followed.

port Group, said the problem will ease somewhat when the base exchange reopens at RAF Lakenheath next month, allowing the temporary facility at RAF Feltwell to close.

"The amount of traffic will significantly reduce," he said.

He also said plans are being drawn up to construct a new entrance at the base to pull more traffic off the road during identification checks.

Matthews reminded the group that the base is one of three in the running for the Air Force Installation of Excellence Award. The team of inspectors will be on the base in two weeks and the general asked people to help the base tidy. The award is \$1 million.

"I think we have a great shot," he said. "In fact, I expect to win it."

The base received \$100,000 for winning the award at the U.S. Air Forces in Europe level. The money is being used to improve Defender Park near the shopette and gas station, he said.

Some spouses spoke up to praise the effort of the wing during the deployment, saying the departure went smoothly and they are having success making contact with their spouses.

One woman said the mail was getting to her husband in just a few days.

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensen@mail.estripes.osd.mil

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

New TRS less than it seems

Thirty years ago, Congress decided the nation could no longer afford to offer military volunteers a robust draft-era GI Bill, so it concocted VEAP, the most unpopular veterans' education benefit of the last century.

Last year, Congress decided the nation couldn't afford to open active-duty Tricare benefits to all drilling reservists, so it created Tricare Reserve Select (TRS). Time will tell if TRS is the reserve health care equivalent of VEAP, but advocates for reservists and families fear it might be.

Certainly some reservists among the estimated 20 percent who lacked health care coverage before mobilization will see TRS as a welcome option. Many more eligibles could find it to be too expensive, too restrictive and too complex.

"I don't think many will" sign up, said Joyce Wessel Razer, director of government relations for the National Military Family Association. "We will all know better once we see the premium [in late March]. But a lot of people will ask about it. A lot will get bogged down in the process and never make it through. And then some folks will sign up for it under the impression that it's the same as Tricare Prime, and be very unhappy."

When TRS begins April 26, thousands of Reserve and National Guard members previously deactivated from post-9/11 deployments, and thousands more soon to complete deployments, will gain access to a scaled-down version of Tricare Standard, the fee-for-service insurance plan.

To qualify, they must have been mobilized under contingency orders of 30 days or longer and have served at least 90 days' continuous active service. For every 90 days served, they will be eligible for a year of TRS. So a year's continuous deployment could qualify them for four years of TRS coverage, for members and their families.

Coverage comes at a cost, however. Members must make a binding agreement to remain in the Selected Reserve for the duration of TRS coverage. They also will pay monthly premiums, with rates to

be announced, that will cover 28 percent of TRS costs. The Congressional Budget Office last year estimated member-only premiums at \$50 a month and family at \$183.

TRS users also will pay the usual Tricare Standard fees, co-payments and annual deductibles. They will not be eligible for Tricare Prime, the military managed-care program, or have access to military treatment facilities or base pharmacies. They will be eligible to get discounted drugs through mail order and Tricare's network of commercial pharmacies.

TRS also won't include many "extras" of Tricare Standard, such as the Program for Persons with Disabilities, which provides financial help for families impacted by mental retardation or a serious physical disability.

Reservists must decide to enroll in TRS before leaving active duty, which likely will mean making quick decisions at de-mobilization sites. If they depart without a "preliminary" TRS agreement, eligibility expires.

Most deployed reservists and families are eligible for Tricare for six months after mobilization. Congress made that temporary postmobilization benefit permanent last year. TRS coverage will start after transition coverage, so on the 181st day after leaving active service.

By then, TRS applicants must have a final TRS agreement with their services, which would involve finding a Selected Reserve unit that needs the reservist for the duration of TRS coverage. If a four-year contract is sought, but the service can guarantee only two years in drill status, the TRS final agreement must be reduced to two years.

Razer described the sign-up process as "Byzantine."

"It's 'Do this here — and this here — at this time.' All these little steps. And the personnel system has to work with the health care system or the whole thing falls apart."

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, Ohio 45523. E-mail milupdate@si.com or visit www.militaryupdate.com

Keeping spirits high with song



BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

Members of Company A, 94th Engineer Battalion (Heavy), from left, Spc. Douglas Gibson, Spc. Anthony Pryor (seated) Pfc. Monica Monzaga and Pfc. Afrika Tinsley find time for one more lighthearted song Friday, while fellow soldiers bade farewell to spouses and children before the unit's pre-dawn departure from Hohenfels, Germany, on a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

Web site helps to deliver packages to 'any soldier'

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Marty Horn understood the security concerns behind the Department of Defense's decision to stop care packages to "any soldier" being sent to Iraq and Afghanistan. But he still wanted to help, so he has spent the last year fine-tuning a Web site that follows the restrictions and still get supplies overseas.

"I had 20 years in the Army; I'm aware of the system and the hassles with getting mail overseas," Horn said. "But people across America and the world are saying, 'We want to do something to help the troops.' I think this provides a conduit for them."

In 2001, Department of Defense officials banned anonymous care packages being sent overseas, including the popular "any servicemember" program touted by the likes of Ann Landers — after problems with anthrax and hoax chemical attacks in the U.S. postal system.

But Horn's site, www.anysoldier.com, allows troops to volun-

teer as a distributor for anonymous care packages, by asking donors to send items under the volunteers' names to "any soldier."

It connects citizens and over-

"But people across America and the world are saying, 'We want to do something to help the troops.' I think this provides a conduit for them."

Marty Horn
organizer

seas servicemembers through an online bulletin board, where the military personnel can request items such as batteries, work gloves or potato chips.

The site has grown dramatically over the last year; Horn estimates nearly 46,000 overseas servicemembers have received care packages through the site over the last 12 months.

"It's not just Americans who want to support our people fighting; it's from all over the world," he said. "The people in Australia have been amazingly supportive. It's just great to see."

Donors from England and Canada have petitioned him to launch similar sites for their countries' troops, and Horn said he hopes to coordinate with Department of Defense officials to keep his program going after troops withdraw from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Horn and his wife, Sue, launched their effort while their son, Army Sgt. Brian Horn, was deployed in 2003-04. Brian Horn is part of the 173rd Airborne Division, based in Vicenza, Italy.

The parents received little information of the paratrooper's war experience until they stumbled upon photos in an October 2003 edition of Stars and Stripes showing his unit sleeping outdoors without tents or pillows. When his parents asked how they could make him more comfortable, Brian asked them to think of his fellow soldiers, too.

The family began sending two sets of care packages, one addressed to "Brian Horn, Attn: Any Soldier" to share with his unit. As more friends and family sent gifts, Brian recruited other



Marty Horn, a 20-year Army veteran and founder of www.anysoldier.com, with his son, Army Sgt. Brian Horn. Marty and his wife figured out a system to help others get packages to servicemembers they don't know. The Horns want people to know that their Web site system is available to anyone to use.

Courtesy of Stripes

soldiers to act as contacts, distributing the items as they arrived.

Horn said he expected to recruit about 30 overseas contacts when he launched the site. After a year, he has more than 1,100 troops willing to act as distributors.

"They tell us how many male and female folks they'll be taking care of, what they need, and even post pictures sometimes," Horn said. "The Marines who have responded have been amazing, and you heard that from an Army guy."

Horn said troops stationed in

other parts of the world have started to post their requests online too. Next month he'll add another Iraq contact to his list. His son is scheduled to be redeployed there, and jokes that everyone in his unit is already bothering him for care packages.

"I'm actually a little worried about the attention he'll get," Horn said. "He's become so well known because of this, he is going to need a whole train for the support packages for his unit when he returns."

For more information, go to: www.anysoldier.com.

E-mail: Leo Shane at: shane@stripes.osd.mil

Vicenza GI guilty of assault, larceny

Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — A soldier stationed with the 2nd Battalion, 33rd Infantry Regiment was found guilty in a general court-martial Thursday on several charges, including assault and taking a pair of confiscated handguns

when he returned from his deployment to Iraq.

Spc. Bradley Morris, assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, was sentenced to three years in prison with forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction in rank to E-1 and a bad-conduct discharge, according to the Southern European Task Force (Airmar) public affairs office.

Morris pleaded guilty to larceny for taking the two handguns out of country, violating a U.S. Army Europe regulation against carrying knives more than 3 inches in length, and assault by force. He was arrested by Italian au-

thorities in Milan on May 30 after an altercation with an Italian national during which he brandished a pair of knives, but did not actually use them. Police found the knives and one of the handguns in his possession at the time. He spent 2½ months in Italian custody.

While in custody, he sent a text message from his cell phone to a friend to take evidence from his residence in Vicenza. He then lied to a Criminal Investigation Command officer who interviewed him in Milan about having the other handgun.

The two 9 mm guns had been confiscated near Tikrit, Iraq, in summer 2003 during operations by the 173rd Airborne Brigade, which spent almost a year in country. He shipped them back to Italy in his personal gear.

Morris pleaded not guilty to obstruction of justice and making a false official statement, but was found guilty at the two-day court-martial, which concluded Thursday.

Welcome home



Sgt. 1st Class Ron Jackson, Battery D, 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery Regiment, left, and wife, Lisa, seem to be in their own world after Jackson returned from Iraq on Tuesday at Warner Barracks in Bamberg, Germany. About 19 soldiers from the Engineer Brigade and Battery D, 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery Regiment returned home from a year in Iraq.

RENATE BOHLEN
Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Naval Academy Summer Seminar

High school juniors are invited to apply for the U.S. Naval Academy Summer Seminar 2005. There are three sessions from which to choose — June 4-9, June 11-16 and June 18-23.

The cost for the week is \$300, which covers room, board, meals and an Annapolis T-shirt, plus transportation costs. The academy can coordinate transportation from a Washington-area airport, preferably Baltimore-Washington International Airport.

According to Marine Lt. Col. George Whitbeck, the contact in Germany for the program, the goal is for students to visit the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., and experience the academic program, physical training and midshipmen life.

The Naval Academy would work with DODDS-Eu-

rope schools to choose a session that best fits with the student's school schedule.

For details, e-mail george.whitbeck@1983.usna.com. Starting Tuesday, interested persons can apply at www.usna.edu/admissions.

Soldier guilty of child-porn charges

VICENZA, Italy — A soldier assigned to the 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry Regiment was found guilty Wednesday of receipt and possession of child pornography in a general court-martial.

Pfc. Todd Randolph, assigned to Company B, was reduced in rank to E-1, ordered to forfeit all pay and allowances and sentenced to 13 months in prison.

From staff reports

Iraqi expats cast ballots

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN
The Associated Press

SOUTHGATE, Michigan — Joyful tears and frequent applause marked the start of U.S. voting Friday among Iraqi expatriates choosing a new government for their homeland.

Votes were cast beginning at 7 a.m. inside an abandoned store in the Detroit suburb of Southgate. Periodically, cheers would erupt from one of the 15 polling stations.

"We feel happy now. This is like America, this voting," said Zoha Yess, 64, who moved to Inkster nine years ago. "We want fair, good government."

Nearly 26,000 Iraqi expatriates in the United States are expected to vote in Iraq's election. They are voting in four other U.S. cities: Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington and Nashville, Tenn. Iraqis also are voting in 13 other countries, not including Iraq.

In Egypt, dozens of Iraqis cast votes by midday, even though the country was left off the list of countries hosting official centers for Iraqis to cast absentee ballots.

Organizers of the virtual poll in Cairo said they would collect the votes and send them to Jordan to be counted there by the International Organization of Migration, the Geneva-based body managing the vote for Iraqis living abroad.

Jordan is one of the 14 countries where Iraqis can officially vote, but the IOM has said it will not recognize any results coming from outside those countries.

In Stockholm, thousands of exiled Iraqis lined up outside Scandinavian polling stations Friday to vote.

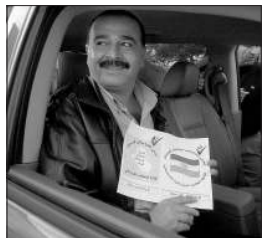
Sweeden harbors one of the world's largest Iraqi exile communities — about 50,000 people — many of them ethnic Kurds who fled persecution by Saddam Hussein's former regime.

Voting began Friday at 7 a.m. in Stockholm and the southern city of Göteborg, where police surveyed the crowd.

For Nuri Berzini, a Kurd who has lived in Stockholm for seven years, voting was a new experience.

"Under Saddam's rule, Kurds weren't allowed to vote," he said. "This is great for Kurdistan, if we can get Kurds elected to the Iraqi parliament."

And in Damascus, Syria, where the autocratic government had reservations about hosting the vote,



Almed Mohammed of Plano, Texas, holds a handout suggesting how he and others should vote in the Iraq elections. Mohammed and members of the Kurdish Democratic Party in Dallas drove to Nashville, Tenn., to register to vote for the election. Nashville is one of five U.S. cities where Iraqi expatriates can go to participate in overseas balloting.

Iraqis filed into schools and other makeshift polling stations.

Expatriate Iraqis were voting in 14 countries around the world, but in the Middle East, the election represented a rare exercise in democracy.

Security was tight at the 10 voting stations in Damascus and its suburbs, with private security guards frisking voters before they were allowed to enter.

According to the Geneva-based International Organization for Migration, there are 201,000 Iraqis living in Syria, but only 8 percent, or 16,581, have registered to vote.

The U.S. polls will be open through Sunday, which is election day in Iraq.

A total of 25,946 Iraqis registered to vote in the United States during the Jan. 17-25 registration period. The largest portion of those voters were in the Detroit area, which had 9,714 register.

Will draft the 275-member assembly that will voters Iraq's new constitution.

SRAP expands to officers

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — A program that allows enlisted service members with war-zone experience to go home for two weeks' TDY to help with recruiting is being expanded to include officers.

In late December, officials at the Army's recruiting command at Fort Knox, Ky., decided to expand the Special Recruiter Assistance Program, or SRAP, to include enlisted soldiers who have served in Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom and are now back in the United States.

The program has been further expanded to include officers, who must be age 28 or younger, stationed in the United States and veterans of Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom.

During the 14-day recruiting duty, SRAP participants put in two 40-hour weeks working with personnel in the recruiting station nearest their hometown.

Duties may include speaking at colleges and community events, as well as participating in interviews

with local media, according to information provided on the program's Web site, www.usarec.army.mil/hrap/soldierapp/control.asp.

SRAP participants can claim reimbursement for travel expenses and a per diem allowance for their temporary duty assignment, or TDY, time.

Once their recruiting obligation is complete, SRAP participants whose commanders have given prior approval may take personal leave, if they've earned it.

Another option for officers who want to do recruiting is a long-standing Army Command Cadet program called Officer Returning Alumni Program, or ORAP, which allows an officer to return to his college alma mater on permissive TDY status.

But unlike SRAP, this program isn't funded, so an officer is not reimbursed for time or expenses.

Officers interested should e-mail their completed applications directly to Maj. Mark Van Hout, relations officer for Cadet Command, at VanhoutMD@USACC.army.mil.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil



Alamo's weekend special offers you a choice of all available car groups for only €5. You have from Friday midday until Monday 10.00 am to discover the best of Germany.

Call 01805 - 46 25 26
to reserve a car or for more information.

€12 Euro per minute



www.alamo.de

The rate includes unlimited mileage, CDW, Theft Protection, Liability Insurance, Vehicle License Fee and VAT. Offer is valid for rentals commencing by the 31 March 2005 in all participating locations. (An Airport Fee will be charged for rentals commencing at an airport location). Subject to usual Terms and Conditions.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday, Jan. 27, 2005, at least 1,418 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,085 deaths resulted as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is nine higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Thursday.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,280 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 976 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A Marine was killed Thursday when insurgents launched mortars at a base near Iskandariyah, Iraq, about 30 miles south of Baghdad.

■ A soldier died Thursday in a gunshot accident on a base near Tikrit, Iraq.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department:

■ Army Sgt. William S. Kinzer Jr., 27, Hendersonville, N.C.; died Wednesday in Duluyah, Iraq, when a grenade hit his patrol, assigned to the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

■ Killed Wednesday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to the Marine Corps Reserve's 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Lynchburg, Va.; Marine Cpl. Jonathan W. Bohl-

ing, 23, Patrick, Va.; Marine Lance Cpl. Karl R. Linn, 20, Chesterfield, Va.; Marine Sgt. Jesse W. Strong, 24, Irasburg, Vt.; Marine Cpl. Christopher L. Weaver, 24, Frederickburg, Va.

■ Killed Wednesday in a helicopter crash near Ruthah, Iraq; assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.; Marine Capt. Paul C. Alaniz, 32, Corpus Christi, Texas; Marine Capt. Lyle L. Gordon, 30, Midlothian, Texas; Marine Staff Sgt. Dexter S. Kimble, 30, Houston.

■ Killed Wednesday in a helicopter crash near Ruthah, Iraq; 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Hawaii; Marine Lance Cpl. Jonathan E. Ertlering, 22, Wheelersburg, Ohio; Marine Lance Cpl. Brian C. Hopper, 21, Wynne, Ark.; Marine Lance Cpl. Saeed Jafarkhan-Torshizi Jr., 24, Fort Worth, Texas; Marine Cpl. Sean P. Kelly, 23, Gloucester, N.J.; Marine Lance Cpl. Allan Klein, 34, Clinton Township, Mich.; Marine Cpl. James L. Moore, 24, Roseburg, Ore.; Marine Lance Cpl. Mourad Ragimov, 20, San Diego; Marine Lance Cpl. Rhonald D. Rairdan, 20, San Antonio; Marine Lance Cpl. Hector Ramos, 20, Aurora, Ill.; Marine Lance Cpl. Darrell J. Schumann, 25, Hampton, Va.; Marine 1st Lt. Dustin M. Shumey, 30, Vallejo, Calif.; Marine Cpl. Matthew R. Smith, 24, West Valley, Utah; Marine Lance Cpl. Joseph B. Spence, 24, Scotts Valley, Calif.

■ Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class John D. House, 28, Ventura, Calif.; assigned to Naval Medical Clinic Hawaii, Marine Corps Units Detachment, Pearl Harbor.

American troops prepare to step back on Sunday

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO
AND JASON CHUDY
Stars and Stripes

RAMADI, Iraq — U.S. troops in Iraq have been instrumental in attempting to stabilize the country before Sunday's national elections. But once the polls open, they will be asked to play a secondary role.

At polling stations throughout the country, U.S. troops will provide the outer cordon of security, with Iraqi forces guarding the voting centers. And with political sensitivity about the election process high, the military has been educating its soldiers on what they should and should not say or do in the run-up to the vote.

"DO appear completely NEUTRAL in all matters relating to the Iraqi Elections," reads part of a "Soldier Information Card" distributed to troops throughout Iraq. "DON'T appear to dislike any Iraqi parties or candidates," it later advises.

The message started at the top and worked its way down through the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment in Baghdad's Kadimiya neighborhood. Battalion officers down to platoon and squad leaders were given briefings and shown Powerpoint slides

covering basic election information. They then met with the soldiers of their platoons and squads.

"Basically, we're not supposed to support any parties if anyone asks us any questions," said Spc. James Bonanno of Company A's 1st Platoon.

But, he said, those questions aren't normally forthcoming. "The Iraqis don't usually ask us questions about the election," he said. "They're more interested in us than in what's going on in their country. I'm sure if I spoke Arabic, they'd probably start a conversation about [the elections]."

"The majority don't speak English well enough to get into conversations," said Pvt. Ralph Young of 1st Platoon. "The extent of our conversations are, 'What's your name, where are you from?'"

Staff Sgt. James Mastrodennico, a squad leader and mortar section leader with Company C, said the information card has come in handy in his dealings with prospective Iraqi voters, although most of the questions deal with election security.

And election security is key in the battalion's area.

The 4-31 soldiers have nearly 50 percent of the polling sites in the 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain



JOSEPH GIORDONO/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment put up posters in Ramadi on Jan. 5 urging Iraqi citizens to participate in Sunday's elections.

Division's area of operations, which covers most of northwest Baghdad and Abu Ghraib.

Mastrodennico said that at one prospective polling site, a man and his three children who live nearby approached and asked if the building was a polling site and if he should move out for the elections.

"The biggest thing when we get approached is, 'Are the elections going to happen?'" he said. "We tell them, 'Of course,' and that they should get out and have their voices heard."

Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, a 2nd Infantry Division unit that deployed from South Korea to Iraq, are responsible for polling stations in the restive city of Ramadi, where insurgents and U.S. forces clash nearly every day.

In recent days, the soldiers have been patrolling with Iraqi

forces. They have largely found it easier to let the Iraqis hand out the election material, both because of the language barrier and the perception the Iraqis are leading the process. "To see the Iraqi soldiers here is really good for the people. And it shows them that we are working toward a point where Iraqis will eventually be responsible for their own security," said 2nd Lt. Tad Tsuneyoshi, a platoon leader with Company C, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment.

At traffic checkpoints and during cordon-and-search operations, the Iraqi troops are the ones encouraging the Iraqis to vote. At times, though, the advantages of having Iraqi troops are lost in the enthusiasm for the upcoming elections.

The Iraqis, not bound by the same rules as the Americans, are more than willing to debate poli-

Soldier info card

DOs:

■ DO appear completely NEUTRAL in all matters relating to the Iraqi Elections.

■ DO hand out Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq-approved election information materials when Iraqis ask you about Iraqi Elections.

■ DO refer Iraqis with election questions to their local Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq offices (when established) or www.iecriaq.org.

■ DO follow published Rules of Engagement (ROE).

■ DO report all observed "political" gatherings to your chain of command.

■ DO follow unit SOPs regarding contact with the media.

■ DO continue to follow all Force Protection rules.

DON'Ts:

■ DON'T appear to favor any Iraqi parties or candidates (remain neutral).

■ DON'T appear to dislike any Iraqi candidate or party.

■ DON'T enter into "political" debates about elections.

■ DON'T gather near registration or polling centers UNLESS directed to do so by your chain of command.

■ DON'T interfere with Iraqi political gatherings.

■ DON'T interfere with media coverage of Iraqi elections.

Source: Department of Defense

tics with their countrymen, often at length, resulting in a slowdown of operations.

E-mail Joseph Giordono at: giordono@starsstripes.osd.mil

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudy@starsstripes.osd.mil

Troops foil poll attack

Pennsylvania National Guardsmen joined with Iraqi soldiers to foil an insurgent plan to bomb a polling place near Tikrit, Iraq, last weekend, according to a news release.

The soldiers from Company A of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment and the 201st Iraqi Army Battalion stopped a car carrying an Iraqi policeman and another man at the checkpoint in Kadisia on Jan. 22, the release said.

In the car, the soldiers found 120 mm artillery round wired as a homemade bomb. When questioned, the men confessed they had intended to plant it at a nearby polling site, according to the release. An explosive-ordnance disposal team came to the site and destroyed the bomb.

The 1-12th Infantry is based in Erie, Pa., and currently is serving in Tikrit as part of Task Force 1-18, under the leadership of the 1st Infantry Division.

From staff reports

WELCOME TO EUROPE GUIDE

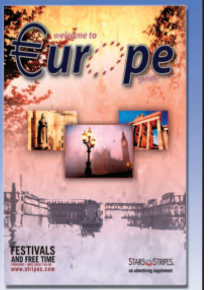
Brought to you by Stars and Stripes

100 pages on local culture, events, on and off base activities, employment, travel, education and much more.

The Welcome to Europe Guide will be inserted into the Stars & Stripes on the following dates and areas.

January 28	January 29	February 5
Benelux	Darmstadt	Italy
Heidelberg	Wiesbaden	Turkey
Mannheim	Hanau	
Stuttgart	Würzburg	
Kaiserslautern	Grafenwöhr	
	Spain	
	UK	

You may also contact ACS.
Family Services, USO or relocation centers throughout Europe



STARS AND STRIPES
Your Homefront Newspaper

President Bush: U.S. ready to leave Iraq if leaders ask

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Bush said in an interview with The New York Times on Thursday that he would withdraw American forces from Iraq if the new government elected Sunday asked, but that he expected Iraq's first democratically elected leaders would want the troops to remain as helpers, not as occupiers.

"I've, you know, heard the voices of the people that presumably will be in a position of responsibility after these elections, although you never know," Bush told The Times. "But it seems like most of the leadership there understands that there will be a need for coalition troops at least until Iraqis are able to fight."

He did not say who he expected would win. But asked if, as a

matter of principle, the United States would pull out of Iraq at the request of a new government, he said: "Absolutely. This is a sovereign government. They're on their feet."

“[Most of the leadership there understands that there will be a need for coalition troops at least until Iraqis are able to fight.]”

President Bush

Republicans that the sheer size of the American presence in Iraq was worsening the violence by presenting insurgents with a large target.

"A fundamental question also that I think a lot of Iraqis understand — and I do too — is how do we make sure the Iraqi citizens view U.S. troops as helpers, not as occupiers," he said.

Officials: Three al-Zarqawi leaders arrested

BY ROBERT H. REID

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — With crucial national elections only two days away, Iraqi officials announced the arrest of three more purported lieutenants of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, head of the Jordanian terror mastermind's military adviser and chief of operations in Baghdad.

Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh told reporters that U.S. and Iraqi authorities were closing in on al-Zarqawi, head of al-Qaida's affiliate in Iraq who is believed responsible for many of the car bombings, kidnappings and decapitations of foreigners in Iraq.

Despite Saleh's assurances, al-Zarqawi's group posted a new Web message Friday warning Iraqis that they could get hit by shelling or other attacks if they approach polling stations, which it called "the centers of atheism and of vice."

Insurgents killed five American soldiers in separate attacks Friday in Baghdad and blasted more polling stations across the country, sending a message that if Iraqis suffer deaths and injuries on election day, "you have only yourselves to blame."

5 GI's killed in bombings; U.S. helo crashes

A U.S. Army OH-58 Kiowa helicopter crashed Friday night in southwestern Baghdad, U.S. officials said. There was no word on the fate of the crew. Four Iraqi police were killed in a car bombing in Baghdad.

Sunni Arab extremists have vowed to disrupt Sunday's national elections, in which Iraqis will choose a 275-member National Assembly and provincial councils in the country's 18 provinces.

Officials fear a low turnout in Sunday's vote could tarnish the legitimacy of the new government.

In Baghdad, U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte insisted some Sunnis will turn out to vote. "Sunnis don't only live in some of these beleaguered provinces, they live here in Baghdad, they live in other parts of the country," Negroponte said on CBS's "The Early Show." "I think you're going to see participation across the board."

Nevertheless, opposition to the election appears strong in Sunni areas, and many voters there are expected to stay away, ei-

ther out of disgust over the process or fear of the insurgents.

Insurgents, meanwhile, stepped up their own attacks, killing the five American soldiers in three separate strikes in northern, western and southern Baghdad, according to the U.S. command. More than 1,411 U.S. troops have been killed in Iraq since fighting began in March 2003.

American troops and insurgents exchanged fire on a major Baghdad thoroughfare. The crackle of gunfire could be heard over the noon call to prayer. U.S. fighter jets thundered through the skies over Baghdad throughout the morning in a show of force against the militants.

Those measures, however, have not been enough to stop the violence. A suicide car bomber exploded his vehicle Friday in Baghdad's Doura neighborhood, killing four Iraqi policemen. Hours later, another car bomb exploded on the neighborhood's main road, damaging a school where voters are to cast ballots Sunday. No one was hurt.

Elsewhere, insurgents hit designated poli-

ing centers in at least six major cities across the country. Gunmen attacked a school to be used as a polling station in Kirkuk, killing one policeman, officials said.

In southern Iraq, a roadside bomb hit an Iraqi police vehicle, killing one officer and wounding three others, said police Lt. Col. Karim al-Zaydi. The attack occurred in the town of Zubair, south of the port city of Basra.

Also Friday, insurgents shelled a U.S. Marine base south of Baghdad, injuring three American troops and three civilians, the military said.

The arrested al-Zarqawi associates included Salah Suleiman al-Lohbi, the head of his group's Baghdad operation, who met with al-Zarqawi more than 40 times over three months, said Qassim Dawoud, a top security adviser to Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

Dawoud said Ali Hamad Yassin al-Isawi, another associate, was also captured. Dawoud said the two arrests took place in mid-January but gave few details.

Also captured was al-Zarqawi's military adviser, a 31-year-old Iraqi named Ahmad Mohammed Qais, 31, said Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh.

Iraq polling stations take shape despite resistance

BY JOSEPH GIORONO
AND TERRY BOYD

Stars and Stripes

The massive, wide-ranging security effort by U.S. and Iraqi troops for Sunday's historic elections rounded into shape Friday, even as sporadic fighting continued in flashpoint cities throughout the country.

In Ramadi, U.S. forces said they have established 10 polling stations throughout the city — five manned by U.S. Marines and five by Army troops of the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. Security inside the polls will be provided by Iraqi troops.

By late Friday, U.S. military officials said insurgents attacked several of the polling stations with weapons ranging from mortars to sniper fire to rocket-propelled grenades. Insurgent snipers wounded one U.S. soldier and an Iraqi Special Police commando Friday at different polling stations, officials said.

Roadside bombs were detonated near several joint patrols in the city, but no casualties were reported.

U.S. and Iraqi soldiers began constructing the actual voting mechanisms Friday, setting up ballot boxes, registration tables and metal detectors to screen voters. Members of the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq, who will run the vote, were on their way to the polling stations under U.S. guard, officials said.

At the same time, patrols spread through the neighborhoods near polling stations, hoping to disrupt insurgent attacks before they could be launched. A joint U.S.-Iraqi patrol in downtown Ramadi — where gun fights and bombings are a near-daily occurrence — turned up at least one cache of weapons and explosives Friday.

Soldiers from Company D, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment found the weapons in a vegetable stand.

Soldiers in Ramadi say the biggest threat on election day could come from suicide bombers. Soldiers say they have received intelligence reports indicating as many as two-dozen female suicide bombers from Syria have been deployed in Ramadi, ready to strike election sites.

U.S. soldiers have been ordered to carry gas masks throughout the election for fear that a chemical agent — anything from tear gas to a nerve agent — could be used



PHOTOS BY JOSEPH GIORONO/Stars and Stripes

Above: Soldiers with Company D, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment go through a box of election materials at a polling station in Ramadi, Iraq, on Friday. Security preparations for Sunday's vote are largely in place, officials said. Right: Soldiers with Company D put together a pair of metal detectors to be used at a polling place in Ramadi.

by insurgents to scare off a potential crowd of voters.

Will anyone vote?

In the area near Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown, few would be surprised if no one cast a ballot.

On Friday, 40 sheiks gathered here, home to 1st Infantry Division's 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, nicknamed "Quarterhorse Cav."

The sheiks visited Forward Operating Base Wilson in nearby Ad Dwar to learn the mechanics of the election from an Iraqi voting official.

While the turnout likely will be relatively small and attacks an almost certainty, certain areas may be surprising, at least in part, say soldiers and officers here.

"The good news will be, vote," said Sgt. Jacob Garrison, 22, a Quarterhorse Scout. On daily foot patrols, he said he meets lots

of good people, even in the heart of the heart of the Sunni Iron Triangle.

Many of the ordinary people in Ad Dwar like the Americans. "The ones who aren't shooting at us," he said.

But a significant number of insurgents operate in the area, and during the past few days, three of 16 voting sites have been attacked, said Capt. Paul Krattiger, 31, Troop C commander.

All the electoral commission officials quit, so Army officials turned to the sheiks and local volunteers were recruited at the last minute to oversee

voting.

If it fails, "it won't be for a lack of effort. Not because soldiers weren't trying to make [the vote] happen," Krattiger said.

Security will make a difference early Sunday, Krattiger said. If Iraqis hang back to see how the day is developing, "and Al-Jazeera isn't reporting a lot of violence," more may venture out, he said.

In their area of responsibility, the Iraqi Army may make a huge difference, Garrison said. Though 1st ID officials have given up on local police, Iraqi soldiers assigned to Wilson have improved drastically, he said.

People here lived well under Saddam, Krattiger said. "Some are realizing to live well again, they're going to have to vote."

"We've done everything we can to secure the vote," Garrison said. Now, soldiers will see if their desires and the dreams of the Iraqi people will intersect, Garrison said. "I want to go home, and they want a home."

E-mail Joseph Giorono at

giornoj@starsstripes.osd.mil

E-mail Terry Boyd at

boydt@mail.eastripes.osd.mil

IN THE STATES

Rice takes oath of office

By BARRY SCHWEID
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Condoleezza Rice took the oath as secretary of state — a second time — with President Bush's assurance to the world that she will lead by "character and conviction and wisdom."

Rice pledged, in response, to use diplomacy to widen the community of democracy. "You have given us our mission and we are ready to serve our great country and the cause of freedom for which it stands," she said.

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a neighbor in Washington's Watergate apartment building, administered the 137-year-old oath in the State Department's formal dining room Friday. Rice's uncle Alto Ray and two aunts, Geona Patterson and Mattie Bonds, held the Bible.

It was her second swearing-in. The first was in a private ceremony at the White House Wednesday night with White House chief of staff Andrew H. Card Jr. officiating. Ginsburg praised Rice as a person of "exceptional talent."

Both Bush and Rice paid tribute in their remarks to Colin Powell, who was secretary of state in Bush's first term. "All of us admire and appreciate the service of Colin Powell," the president said.



Condoleezza Rice is sworn in Friday as secretary of state in Washington. From left to right are: President Bush; Genoa McPhatter, Rice's aunt; Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg; Alto Ray, Rice's uncle; and Rice.

"Colin Powell left big shoes to fill when he left the State Department," Bush added. "Condoleezza Rice is the person to fill them."

Bush catapulted Rice to the role of top U.S. diplomat after she served for four years as his national security adviser. "Cond's appointment and confirmation as secretary of state marks a remarkable transition in what is already a career of outstanding service and accomplishment," he said.

Calling his trusted adviser by her nickname, Cond, throughout, Bush said his own family had been "enriched by our friendship with this remarkable person."

Rice hit the ground running Thursday with a pep talk to cheering State Department employees crowded into a lobby, meetings on Iraq and the tsunami disaster and telephone conversations with seven foreign leaders as she planned a trip to Europe and the Middle East next week.

Gay couple sues Calif.

The Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. — A gay couple wants a federal judge to overturn state and federal laws against same-sex marriage, arguing that those laws violate their civil rights and are equivalent to racial segregation.

Calling gays "the most oppressed minority since slavery," the couple's attorney Richard C. Gilbert on Thursday told U.S. District Judge Gary Taylor "It now falls to you to uphold the principles of liberty."

The case is one of the few challenges to bans on same-sex marriage pending in federal court. Most litigation on the issue is in the state court system, where advocates believe they have a better chance of success.

The five-hour hearing focused on such basic questions as the purpose of marriage, the definition of discrimination and whether a federal court should get involved in an issue that is the subject of active litigation in state courts.

Officers arrested on conspiracy charges

CHICAGO — Four veteran police officers conspired with drug dealers to steal money, drugs and guns from competing dealers, authorities said in announcing nine arrests.

Other officers also were part of the conspiracy, authorities said Thursday.

"If I were the other officers, I would be picking up the phone and calling us because we intend to get to the bottom of it," U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald said, suggesting that any officers with guilty knowledge could help themselves by becoming witnesses.

Napalm, mines seized from hospital worker

DENTON, Texas — Hand grenades, homemade bombs and mines are among items in an arsenal confiscated from a hospital worker's home.

Randall "Randy" Todd remained jailed Friday in lieu of \$200,000 bond on charges of aggravated assault and assault on a peace officer.

Police said the 51-year-old employee of Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas was accused of shooting a construction worker who was in a portable toilet at a construction site across the street, then attacking a law officer during a later investigation.

From The Associated Press

Attention Active Duty Military!

Earn Your Bachelor or Master Degree in Health Sciences

- A flexible program that meets your schedule needs
- All course ONLINE with maximum transferability of previously earned education credits
- Special rates for military spouses and retirees
- DANTES Affiliated
- High quality B.S. and M.S. programs in Health Sciences with numerous concentrations

* If you are an IDC, PMT, P.A., Certified Radiologic Technologist, Lab Technician or other health care professional, you have the opportunity to complete your degree and earn a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences.

NO TUITION COST TO YOU! UP TO 28 CREDITS PER YEAR



TOURO UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL
The University of Choice for the U.S. Military

www.tourou.edu

5665 Plaza Dr., Third Floor, Cypress, CA 90630
800-579-3161 • 714-226-9840 • 714-226-9844 Fax

College of Health Sciences e-mail: infochs@tourou.edu
For inquiries log on to: <http://inquiry.tourou.edu>

Now Accepting
Applications
for Spring
Session.



Officials sift train for evidence

BY PAUL CHAVEZ
The Associated Press

GLENDALE, Calif. — Investigators picked through the wreckage of two commuter trains, searching for evidence to build a murder case against the suicidal man who triggered the crash by leaving his SUV on the tracks. Eleven people died and nearly 200 were injured.

Juan Manuel Alvarez, 25, appeared in court Friday to be arraigned on murder charges, but the hearing was postponed as the suspect could undergo further medical evaluation.

After Alvarez left his car Wednesday morning and stood by as the trains derailed in a fiery chain-reaction crash, he ran to the porch of a nearby home and used scissors to stab himself and slash his wrists, according to reports in two local newspapers.

A woman in the house called 911, and Alvarez told paramedics what happened as he was being rushed to a hospital. They radioed police, who arrested him. It had previously been unclear when Alvarez harmed himself.

A 911 tape revealed the drama moments after the nation's deadliest rail crash in six years, as an employee at a nearby Costco store reported the disaster and at the same time alerted other employees to fight the flames.

"There's a Metrolink that runs against to



Investigators examine wreckage from a train crash Thursday in Glendale, Calif. The crash, involving multiple trains, occurred after an apparently suicidal man parked his SUV in the path of a commuter train Wednesday morning and then jumped out.

the — oh, they need fire extinguishers! Quick! Quick!" she yelled to other workers.

"What's going on?" asked the dispatcher. "What's going on, ma'am?"

"The Metrolink derailed right on the side of the building!" she said.

Sixty of the injured were treated at the scene and the rest were taken to hospitals. An incomplete tally Thursday showed at least 23

people remained hospitalized, seven in critical condition, and more than 80 had been released.

Emergency workers officially ended their recovery efforts Thursday after determining there were no more survivors or bodies to be found. Alvarez, who was under suicide watch at a hospital's jail ward, was expected to face 11 murder counts.

Bush plan would narrow investments

BY LAURA MECKLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush's advisers have settled on a proposal for structuring the personal accounts they hope to create in Social Security, while on Capitol Hill, Senate Democrats were launching an effort to defeat the plan altogether.

Under a plan recommended to Bush, the private accounts would resemble many company-sponsored retirement plans, with just a handful of investment options.

By default, workers would be enrolled in a "life cycle" account, in which investments become more conservative as investors age, if they do not choose one of the other options, according to two officials speaking on condition of anonymity.

Advisers finalizing proposal for an alternative in Social Security

On Friday, Senate Democrats were holding a session aimed at showcasing the problems with Bush's overall plan to let workers divert a portion of their Social Security taxes into individual accounts that could be invested in the stock market.

Bush met last week with his Social Security advisers working to write a legislative plan. They briefed him on issues they had resolved among themselves as well as options in areas where there was no consensus.

Yet to be decided are several big questions, including how large the private accounts should

be, how much guaranteed benefits would be cut and how to pay as much as \$2 trillion needed in the first 10 years to effect the transition to a new system.

In devising a structure for the private accounts, the Bush administration is modeling its proposal after the Thrift Savings Plan, a tax-deferred retirement investment plan similar to a 401(k). The idea is to minimize risk for people at the outset by offering as few as three to five diversified investment funds.

Bush said in December that his plan would make sure people could not invest "in a frivolous fashion."

Under the Thrift Savings Plan, federal workers have five investment options, including government and corporate bond funds, a stock fund that tracks the S&P 500, an international fund and other stock funds.

Under the emerging Bush plan for Social Security, the default investment would be a "life cycle" account. It would begin with investments that have greater potential for both risk and reward and shift to safer bonds as a worker ages, officials in and outside the administration said.

The government would be responsible for keeping track of how much money is in each worker's account and give the lump sums to a financial services company to invest, a mechanism aimed at keeping administrative fees low, they said.

Job opportunities up in smoke for some who light up

BY DANIEL COSTELLO
Los Angeles Times

Employers have recently tried every carrot they can think of — incentives, cash bonuses and iPods — to convince employees to quit smoking. Now they are the trying the stick.

Pointing to rising health costs, and the oversized proportion of insurance claims attributed to smokers, employers around United States are refusing to hire applicants who smoke and, sometimes, firing employees who refuse to quit.

"Employers are realizing the majority of health costs are spent on a small minority of workers," says Bill Whitmer, chief executive of the Health Enhancement

Research Organization, an employer and health-care coalition in Birmingham, Ala.

Federal and state laws bar employers from not hiring or firing workers based on their race, religion or gender. Some states have enacted laws offering similar protections for smokers. But experts say workers in nearly half the states have few legal options if employers decided to prohibit them from smoking outside the workplace.

Employees in many states "work at the discretion of their employers and can be terminated for almost any reason as long as it's not illegal," says Stephen Sugarman, a law professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

Last fall, Union Pacific Corp., an Omaha, Neb.-based transportation company, stopped hiring smokers in seven states. Company officials said the move was made to help quell employee health costs, which have jumped more than 10 percent each of the last three years. Weyco Inc., an employee benefits company with 200 employees in Okemos, Mich., began random drug tests for nicotine on Jan. 1, saying it would fire workers who failed the test or refused to quit smoking. (Four Weyco employees resigned rather than take the test, says the company's president, Howard Weyers.) The Riverside County (Calif.) Sheriff's Department plans soon to require applicants for deputy sheriff positions to sign a no-smoking agreement.

In most cases, employers are asking workers to report their smoking habits voluntarily or adding disclaimers such as "nonsmokers only" to job postings. Others are requiring workers to take Breathalyzer tests that can catch traces of carbon monoxide in their lungs or submit to urine tests to detect nicotine.

Employers, workers' rights groups and some unions are decrying the smoking bans as an invasion of individual rights. "What you do in your own home after work or on the weekend is none of your boss' business," says Lew Malby, president of the National Workrights Institute in Princeton, N.J. "The last time I checked, tobacco is a legal product."

Dad charged in stabbing

HIGHLAND FALLS, N.Y. — A father was charged with murder hours after his 7-year-old daughter was found stabbed to death in the boy's restroom at her small parochial school.

The motive was unclear, and no weapon has been found, police Chief Peter Miller said.

Christopher Rhodes, 27, denied guilt, police said.

The body of first-grader Jerica Rhodes was discovered not long after classes started Thursday at Sacred Heart of Jesus School in this Hudson Valley village, Miller said. Her father was arrested that night and was being held without bail, Miller said.

Subway chief misspoke

NEW YORK — New York City Transit's president apologized for upsetting commuters when he said it would take up to five years to restore full service on two subway lines damaged by fire — an estimate he later drastically lowered.

"I must have misspoke or didn't clarify myself very well on that," Lawrence Reuter said Thursday at a Metropolitan Transportation Authority board meeting. "I'm sorry."

Officials now believe it will take between six and nine months to completely restore service on the A and C subway lines. The lines were impaired by a fire Sunday that destroyed a signal room at the Chambers Street station in lower Manhattan.

P&G buys Gillette

NEW YORK — Procter & Gamble Co., the leading U.S. maker of household products whose brands include Crest, Pampers, Tide and Charmin, is buying the razor and battery maker Gillette Co. for \$57 billion in a deal that will create the world's biggest consumer-products enterprise, the companies announced Friday.

The merger, which must still be approved by regulators and shareholders, would create a company with revenues of more than \$60 billion that would have even greater clout against mass-market retailers like Wal-Mart Stores Inc., which have been pressuring consumer product suppliers to keep costs low.

New same-sex policy

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The nation's largest employer is expanding the definition of "immediate family" in its ethics policy to include an employee's same-sex partner.

The Wal-Mart Stores Inc. policy change — disclosed in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Wednesday — accounts for the laws in some states that recognize domestic partnerships and civil unions, officials said.

Company spokesman Gus Whitcomb on Thursday declined to say if the change would affect employee benefits.

From wire services

IN THE WORLD

Schroeder urges for diplomacy with Iran

The Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland — German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder urged diplomacy in the standoff with Iran over nuclear enrichment and Israel's Shimon Peres said Middle East peace talks could enter a "new age" as they addressed the World Economic Forum on Friday.

Speaking to hundreds of people at the annual meeting of top business executives and politicians, Schröder — who steadfastly opposed the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq — said that it was imperative Iran not develop nuclear weapons.

"This is a hotbed region already," he said.

The United States and several other countries fear Iran is seeking to enrich uranium not to seek the low level needed to generate power but to weapons grade that forms the core of nuclear warheads.

Iran publicly insists it only seeks to make low-grade enriched uranium for nuclear fuel.

Together with France and Britain, Germany has spearheaded diplomatic efforts to persuade Tehran to end nuclear activities that could be used to make weapons — an aim that Iran denies. Washington has been less patient.

BY CONSTANT BRAND
The Associated Press

LUXEMBOURG — One day after Europe-wide Holocaust commemorations, EU ministers said Friday they want to improve cooperation in the fight against extremism and anti-Semitism across the continent, including a ban on Nazi symbols.

Luxembourg justice minister Luc Frieden, who chaired the meeting of justice and interior ministers, called for the 25 EU governments to quickly adopt proposals which have been on the table for two years.

"Discussions have been going on too long," Frieden said. "We are not alone to the victims of Auschwitz and other concentration camps. Racism is something that is incompatible with the fundamental values that are the basis of the European construction."

The proposals, which could include a ban on Nazi symbols, most notably the public manifestation of the swastika, would need agreement from all EU governments.

The ban was unlikely to go as far as including the use of Nazi uniforms in movies for example, officials said.

Thursday's commemorations marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz Nazi concentration camp high-

Cheney tours Auschwitz

The Associated Press

OSWIECIM, Poland — U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney toured a Nazi concentration camp here Friday, walking through brick barracks, viewing mounds of human hair and walking under a cynical sign at the main gate that reads: "Arbeit macht frei," which means "Work brings freedom."

Cheney had toured Auschwitz once before — back in 1975 when he was chief of staff for President Gerald Ford. On Friday he spent about 90 minutes in freezing temperatures walking around the snow-covered camp.

He signed a condolence book at one of the first crematoriums where 400 people, mostly Jews, were gassed at a time and their bodies cremated.

The tour wrapped up a three-day visit to southern Poland where the vice president joined scores of world leaders to mark the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps.



Cheney

lighted the growing problem of xenophobia and anti-Semitism in Europe.

Also, pictures showing Britain's Prince Harry wearing a Nazi swastika armband at a costume party earlier this month added to EU calls to ban all Nazi symbols across Europe.

Reflecting the sensitivity of the issue in Britain, British Home Secretary Charles Clarke refused to comment on the issue, but endorsed calls for cooperation.

Italy has been blocking a deal on the standards that would define what racism is and set out common aims to tackle it.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's conservative government includes the right-wing National Alliance, which fears its neo-fascist roots could bring it in violation of the new EU rules, if adopted.

The party's leader, Foreign Minister Gianfranco Fini, has been trying to rid his party of ex-

termists.

Britain too has problems with the proposal, fearing it could impede on individual rights of expression.

"The question is always where are the limitations of the freedom of expression and that is the balance we have to find," Frieden said.

"We have an interest to be tougher against the extreme right, it would make sense to coordinate that on European level," said Guenther Beckstein, Bavarian interior minister, who was representing Germany at the informal meeting of EU ministers.

Also at the meeting, EU ministers looked at ways to coordinate their fight against organized crime and terrorist groups by sharing data on criminal records.

EU Justice and Home Affairs Commissioner Franco Frattini suggested ministers move to launch a pilot project in sharing information on convicted rapists, ensuring they do not move freely across the union without authorities knowing where they are.

The EU ministers also discussed a request from Interpol Chief Ronald Noble that the 25-nation bloc provide more aid in identifying victims of the Asian tsunami.

Frieden said Interpol requested the bloc give some \$2.6 million to help fund setting up an international database for DNA samples taken from victims.

Family reunited after tsunami split

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — For more than a month, Muhammad Jamil toured refugee camps and morgues in this tsunami-ravaged city looking for three of his children missing since the waves struck.

On Friday, he found his son — but there was still no news of his two daughters.

"I was always convinced he was still alive," said Jamil, 40, who had a 11-year-old daughter, who was in the shower when his father arrived. "God was listening to the prayers I have been saying day and night."

The reunion — a rare piece of good news in this province where tens of thousands of parents have lost children to the waves — was organized by international aid group Save the Children, which has been tracing the relatives of lost kids.

Jamil, a 52-year-old cocoa farmer, was checking on his crops when the tsunami struck. Habibi was supposed to be staying with Jamil's eldest daughter, but had gone to play at a friend's house in the center of this provincial capital, where he had almost 40,000 people were killed.

Jamil's happiness was tempered by the knowledge that two of his daughters, ages 9 and 23, were still missing — and most likely dead. They had been at the 23-year-old daughter's house, which the waves washed away. His four other children were un-

"I still long for my daughters, but at least I have Habibi now," said Jamil, whose wife died several years ago. He now lives at a refugee camp.

Save the Children, based in Westport, Conn., and other organizations are registering lost children in Indonesia and other tsunami-struck countries to reunite them with family members. The group has so far listed 72 children who have been separated from their parents or are being looked after by other relatives.

Save the Children stopped using pictures and offering extensive information on lost kids, fear-

ful that child smugglers might use the details to claim the youngsters as their own. Instead, it issues lists solely consisting of names and posts them in public places.

"God was listening to the prayers I have been saying day and night."

Muhammad Jamil
Father

After the tsunami, Habibi was taken by a family living close to his friend's house. Save the Children learned of his whereabouts from people living in a nearby refugee camp.

Jamil spent the last month visiting countless refugee camps and hospitals. He said he checked the corpses of hundreds of children littering the streets in the days after the disaster.

On Wednesday, Jamil discovered his son's name on a list at the Save the Children office in Banda Aceh.

Workers at the charity then showed Habibi pictures of five different men.

"I pointed straight to my father's picture," he said. Habibi, his hair still wet from his shower, smiled shyly as he met his father.

"I am happy to meet my dad," he said. "I want to stay with my father in the refugee camp, but I still want to be able to come here and play around with my friends."

Molson-Coors merger

MONTREAL — Shareholders of North America's oldest beer company, Canada's Molson Inc., on Friday voted overwhelmingly in favor of merging with Anheuser-Busch Co., the third-largest brewer in the United States, all but sealing the alliance when Coors shareholders vote next week.

The combined Molson Coors Brewing Co., would own brands that include Coors Original, Coors Light, Keystone, Molson Canadian and Carling.

Meteor lands in Spain

MADRID, Spain — A spectacular fireball meteor was seen falling in the neighborhood of two Madrid airports, emergency services said Friday.

"We had three calls and are aware of other calls reporting a huge fireball before midnight on Thursday," said Luis Serrano of the emergency telephone service in Madrid.

Bridge stays closed

ATHENS, Greece — Greece's largest bridge remained closed Friday, a day after a support cable caught fire and snapped, slowing traffic between the port of Patras and the country's mainland.

Authorities have not said why the cable broke or how long the 7,382-foot suspension bridge will remain closed.

From The Associated Press

Look For
Education
Focus

Discover the latest in
education technology and
research.

In Sunday Scene
this Sunday

Earn Your Degree at Home!

Use your Military/V.A. Education Benefits.

Cleveland Institute of Electronics offers nationally accredited distance learning programs in electronics and computer technology/VA and DANTES eligible.

Partial list programs offered:

• Associate Degrees in Electronics & Computer Technology

www.cie-wc.edu
Send for your FREE Course Catalog & see how easy it is to put your Military Education Benefits to work for you & see if you qualify for advanced standing.

www.ciebookstore.com
CD tutorials, software, tool kits & more.
CIE 1774 E 17th Street, Cleveland, OH 44114



STIPES RELOCATION GUIDE

COLORADO PCS* Fort Carson, Peterson AFB

BUYER'S AGENT!

I work for you, not the seller.
new builds/existing homes/VA repos
You dream it, I'll find it!

Mark Stampe SFC, USA (Ret.)
century21homes@hotmail.com
1-800-727-6181 or call (719)382-3481

FORT GORDON GEORGIA (Or anywhere in the US) EXCLUSIVE Buyers Agent!



See our website for homes, loan
information, important area links
E-mail: broker@AugustaHomeBuyers.com
Call: 888-253-7707
www.AugustaMortgageSolutions.com
www.AugustaHomeBuyers.com

Fort Bragg & Pope AFB

www.fayettevilleopenhouse.com

1000's of Homes for Sale
1000's of Homes for Rent
100's of Pictorial Tours

FREE Real Estate Magazine

Denver-Aurora Colorado Springs

Parker, Castle Rock, Monument, Lakewood

Colorado PCS Realty

FREE relocation kit, home sales & VA loan
information. Check our web site for FREE,
temporary, furnished lodging available to
our home buying customers.

Phil McMullen Broker-owner
Email: ColoradoPCS@aol.com
USA 1-800-274-9576
www.coloradopcs.com

30 min.
or less
commute!



Homes, Horse
Farms, New
construction.

Pinehurst, Southern Pines NC
Check out www.mooreac.com
Jim Murray, rayplumas@ncrr.com
800-238-6742 USA
Moore Co. Real Estate Brokers

FORT JACKSON, SC

Web Site: www.fortjacksonrelo.com
E-mail: duker@fortjacksonrelo.com

Call Bob Duker, USA, Ret.
Writer, Military Relocation Team
2001 St. Andrews Rd. PMB 1024 Columbia, SC 29212

Relocation Package
40 Page Home Buyers Guide • VA Preapproval
• Germany Toll Free Anytime
(800-225-5288) — 800-447-3536

MOVING TO HAMPTON ROADS VA?

Langley AFB • Norfolk Naval Base
Yorktown • Norfolk • Hampton
Newport News • Williamsburg • Suffolk

**Barbara and Ken Kerwin
Abbit Realty**
1-800-721-5229
US@2Kerwin.com
www.2Kerwin.com
www.WeSellHamptonRoads.com

STANDARD ISSUE MEETS A NEW STANDARD

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper
Wherever You Go, We Go

estripes.osd.mil

Fort Hood

Sales and Rentals • FREE Relocation Packets

CALL US Mike or Denise Zehr
"Years of Texas Friendly Service"

Toll Free: **800-826-4620**

1-254-547-2019 500 Town Square Shopping Center
Copperas Cove, Texas 76522

www.zehrrealestateteam.com • zehrteam@earthlink.net

First Community Mortgage

Tommy Thornhill
Assistant Vice President
Tommy.thornhill@1stnb.com
Tel. 254.542.5100
Toll Free. 01.308.18786



Ft. Stewart & Hunter

SALES and RENTALS

Toll Free: 1-800-476-3680

www.fortstewart.com

Coldwell Banker Holtzman, Realtors

Email: cbholtzman@clds.net
730 General Stewart Way • Hinesville, GA 31313



PCS-ing to WASHINGTON DC or Northern VIRGINIA?



Pentagon, Andrews, Ft. Belvoir, or Anywhere!
Call for a FREE, comprehensive
Home Buyer's Relocation Package:

Maps, Loan Preapproval Information, School Profiles

Ask for Becky Berning: 703-913-7880

Call Toll Free:

Italy: 1 678 78158 UK: 0800 96 8801 Germany: 0800 181 6459
Netherlands: 0800 229 143 Belgium: 0800 713 77 USA: 800 628 6781

www.MyMilitaryHomeFinder.com

e-mail: BECKY@longandfoster.com

FLORIDA Coast to Coast

See our Fabulous New Website
www.TheEmetGroup.com

Our Real Estate and Mortgage Team Provides
• Personal Assistance Statewide
• Loan Qualification
• Mortgage Services
• Purchases, Refinancing, HELOC's

info@TheEmetGroup.com
Toll Free 866-856-6318



Walter & Susan Lamerton
Realtor/Counselor-Associated
GLOBAL Mortgage

Northern VA, Quantico, DC

Bob Graham's Military Buyers Program

\$2,000 CASH BACK!

#1 Military Relocation Specialist

bobnova@erols.com

www.bobgrahamvarelo.com

Free Relo Packet • Long and Foster



Fort Lewis Housing

<http://www.fortlewishousing.com>

Fort Lewis Housing
www.fortlewishousing.com

Home Buyers Guide Homes for Sale VA Mortgages

Testimonials Fort Lewis Info Maps

Govt Repos Why Buyer's Agent? Contact Us

CALL 1-360-491-6500

Fort Lewis, WA

Fort Lewis Info

ARRIVAL

UNITS

SCHOOL INFO

CLASSIFIEDS

LOCAL AREA

Pentagon CHANNEL

Watch the new
Pentagon Channel ...

Serving Those Who Serve

...for military news and
information 24/7 weekdays.
Visit pentagonchannel.net and find out how!

pentagonchannel.net



Fort Bragg/Pope AFB

Retired Air Force member is willing
to locate the right house for you
and your family in the
Fayetteville area. Contact me for
referrals to other areas.
MarkJohnson@remax.net
Direct : (910)391-5804



Premiere
Properties
Reno Mills

STRIPE RELOCATION GUIDE

UMRC **Cash Back To Buyers** **3 Free Nights In Hotel**

PCSing to **FORT HODD**
 Ft. Bragg, Ft. Campbell, Ft. Stewart, Ft. Lewis, Ft. Knox...?

FREE RELOCATION INFORMATION
Call Chris Roussel
 Coldwell Banker United, Realtors
 2705-E Highway 190, Copperas Cove, TX 76522

Call Toll Free: 8-000-100-2106 • E-Mail: crousse@cbumited.com
 FREE INFORMATION: Employment, Schools, Buying Information • VA/Practical Assistance
 Pre-qualify with National Bank Mortgage • Toll Free: 8-000-182-4032
 Lee Hufner • FDIC/Equal Housing Lender

COLORADO
Ft. Carson-NORAD-Air Force Academy-Peterson & Schriever AFB

NEW BUILT or RESALE? • FIRST TIME HOME BUYER?
RELOCATION PACKAGE FOR HOME BUYERS
 "CHECK OUT OUR BIG \$\$\$ SPECIAL!"

PETRA HAEBICH
 Broker Associate
RE/MAX PARTNERS, Inc.
 Petrahaebich@REMAX.net

DWIGHT HOWARD
 Branch Manager
RBC MORTGAGE

www.PetraHaebich.com

We'll get you Pre-Approved BEFORE you move!
 Professional Service • Personal Touch

Ft Jackson • Shaw AFB • Charleston AFB
Beaufort MCAS • Parris Island • Naval Hosp

HOME BUYER REPRESENTATION SPECIALISTS
 Buyers: "We work to get you the best price & terms"
 "One stop shopping" - We handle it all
 Loan Approval • Negotiations • Inspections • Insurance • Closing
 Call George: 1-800-310-5112 weekends are OK or
george@schomebuyer.com or **www.schomebuyer.com**
 Ask for: Relocation Pkg, info on Schools, Area & Jobs
 Home Buyer Representation Realty, Inc. **NO FEES!**

NORTHERN VIRGINIA
 • Pentagon • Ft. Belvoir • Quantico

Let Me Be Your Sponsor
 PCSing to the D.C. metropolitan area?
 I can find your home in Northern Virginia.

- Unique Cash Back Program to home buyers.
- Military Relocation Specialist. I understand the challenges of the military family. I've relocated nine times, including overseas, as a 15 year Army spouse.
- Mortgages available through Sandhills Bank. Shawn Yurkman (703) 547-1100
- Information on schools and local communities available.
- Free Relocation Packet.

www.just4real.com

Samson Realty LLC

Cardlyn Capalbo
www.just4real.com
 email: info@just4real.com
 (703) 477-6022

Pentagon CHANNEL

Watch the new Pentagon Channel...

for military news and information visit our website
 Visit pentagonchannel.net and find out how!

pentagonchannel.mil

Log On and Pre-Qualify for FREE!

1-800-947-8153

idolcom.com is a service of National Bank

4VA LOAN.COM

Changing the Way the Military Moves™

MEMBER FDIC

Going Home? Get a PCS Loan!

For a fast loan...

omni
 MILITARY LOANS

click here! **www.yesomni.com**

Fort Polk
www.coldwellbanker.com

- New Home Construction
- Serving Deridder and Leesville
- Free Relocation Information

COLDWELL BANKER

Wayne Hall Real Estate
 800-877-0677

Contact Me Today!
 Wayne Hall
 Broker/Owner
 waynehall@yahoo.com
 (337) 463-9994

The Kitty Bernard Team
 would like to say "Thank You" to all our service men and women for the sacrifices you've made to keep us safe & free

For the Best professional Real Estate Services in Northern Virginia call:
The Kitty Bernard Team
 (703) 707-2084
www.KittyBernard.com
 email: **Kitty@KittyBernard.com**
 1801 Reson Flgwy, #100, Reston, Virginia 20190

Let us help you find a place to call Home

Washington, D. C. Area & Northern Virginia
Free 200 Page Book
"How to Buy Your Home, Without Getting Ripped Off"

Area Maps, Newspapers
Over 50,000 Homes for sale

www.TerrySeaman.Com
Terry Seaman Realty 1-800-708-9969

Fort Benning Bound?
 ★ Five Star Service ★
 With the Buyer's Resource Team
Steve Freeman & Mary Ellen Vernie

- Cash Back Program
- Military Relo
- Accredited Buyer Brokers
- Specialists
- PCS Kit for home Buyers
- Rates Military from Germany 680-235-8888-888-999-1236

relocatecolumbus@mindspring.com
www.columbusgarelocation.com
 for more European & Asian Toll Free Numbers
REAL ESTATE INC.
 100% VA Loans Provided in Minutes
 Free Pre-approval! E-mail Harriette Elkins at **Harriette@MortgageAmerica.com**
 706-322-8800 or Toll Free 1-888-399-RELO

ASSISTING MILITARY FAMILIES
Nationwide Lender.
Lowest Rates. Guaranteed.

CATHOLIC HOME LOAN

800.270.8565
WWW.CATHOLICHOMELOAN.COM

COLORADO
PCSing to Colorado Springs?
Call Christa Miranda
 or Tiffany Ades (Assistant)

A 26 year Military Family moving Mountains to make your Real Estate Dreams come true.

German Speaking.

Toll Free: 1-866-539-2508 • Call: 719-351-5963
 Email: **christa.miranda@coldwellbanker.com**
www.CheyenneMountainRealty.com

FOR KNOX

CALL GENE & ERIKA GUDENKAUF
TOLL FREE FOR YOU:
8-000-181-6612
One Call Does It All!

Free Relocation Packages • VA Homes
 Property Rentals • New Homes
FIND:
 Local Listings • School Reports
 Loan Pre-Qualification and more!
 By visiting us at:
www.aria-home.com
 or email us at:
 egudenkauf@remax.net
 Teamwork that makes your dream work!

Gene & Erika Gudenkauf
RE/MAX Advantage+
 1-888-470-7089
 703 N. Dixie Highway
 Radcliff, KY 40360

STARS AND STRIPES. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THOMAS E. KELSCH, Publisher
THOMAS BIERMANN, General Manager, Europe
LT. COL. CYRIL J. SOCHA, Commander

News and Editorial

DAVID MAZZARELLA, Editorial Director
DOUG CLARKSON, Managing Editor
BOB GRUNSTAFER, Associate Editor
BOB ARNHEIM, Editor
SCOTT BURGESS, Media and Events Chief
JOE GRONELSKI, Electronic Editor
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITORS
Sharon Olson, Features Peter Pollock, PhotoGraphics
Brian Brown, News Sean Morris, Sports

Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 54880, AFPO 09211
INTERNATIONAL MAIL: Postoffice 35435 Griesheim, Germany
FAX: 254-841-8416; fax (+49) (0) 6155-60416
E-MAIL: News, news@starsandstripes.com
Letters, letters@starsandstripes.com
CENTRAL OFFICE: 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1101. Phone USN 312-763-0900 or cv (+1) (202) 763-0900 or (+1) (202) 763-0880
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: David Mazzarella, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20045-1101. Phone USN 312-763-0945 or cv (+1) (202) 763-0945
E-mail: mazzarella@starsandstripes.com
ONBOARDMAIL: Joe Burgess, Send comments to Onboardmail, Stars and Stripes, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20045-1101. Phone (+1) (401) 364-0332, fax (+1) (401) 364-8636, or e-mail: onboardmail@starsandstripes.com

How to call us

Editor: USN 349-8237; cv (+49) (0) 6155-60127
USN 349-8400; cv (+49) (0) 6155-60140
Letters: USN 349-8237; cv (+49) (0) 6155-60125
Circulation: USN 349-8343; cv (+49) (0) 6155-60147
Advertising: USN 349-8237; cv (+49) (0) 6155-60133/43

News Bureaus

BERMANTH (country code +48)
Bamberg: Gert Dietz, 27908-158, Tel. 73553, Fax 25541, APN 0193-7535; tel. (+49) 9369-7535 or cv (+91) 56586; fax USN 48-4007 or cv (+91) 56580-8007
e-mail: emet@starsandstripes.com
Bamberg: Terry Boyd, 22248-558, APN 09034, tel. USN 48-4007 or cv (+91) 56580-8007
e-mail: mboyd@starsandstripes.com
Darmstadt: Roger Dougherty, Unit 25480, AFPO 09211; tel. USN 349-8400 or cv (+1) (202) 763-0900
e-mail: dougherty@starsandstripes.com; Ward Sanderson, Unit 20480, AFPO 09211; tel. USN 349-8400 or cv (+1) (202) 763-0900
e-mail: sanderson@starsandstripes.com; Ward Sanderson, Unit 25480, AFPO 09211; tel. USN 349-8400 or cv (+1) (202) 763-0900
e-mail: sanderson@starsandstripes.com
Heidelberg: Jessica Hume, Room 117, Remstal, 69115 Heidelberg, Germany, tel. (+49) 6221-6414
e-mail: jhume@starsandstripes.com
Kaiserslautern: Jennifer Adams, AFPO 09237-317, tel. USN 48-4007 or cv (+1) (202) 763-0900
e-mail: jadams@starsandstripes.com
Shannon: Steve Lower, 4th Air Force, AFPO 09107-0465; tel. USN 42-2088 or cv (+1) 692-888; e-mail: wlower@starsandstripes.com
Washington: Scott Jones, AFPO 0931-4658 or cv (+1) 693-4658
e-mail: sjones@starsandstripes.com
Weisbaden: Steve Lower, 4th Air Force, AFPO 0931-4658 or cv (+1) 693-4658
e-mail: sjones@starsandstripes.com

ITALY

Ariano Vigneri: Kent Harris, USN (314) 632-7652 or cv (39) 0434-66-7652; second line USN (314) 632-4222 or cv (39) 0434-66-4222
e-mail: hvigneri@starsandstripes.com
Naples: Sandra Jantz and Jason Chubb, Box 817, Box 56, FPO AF 09622, tel. USN 626-5157 and 626-5158 or cv (+39) (081) 568-5157 and 568-5158; fax USN 626-5150 or cv (+39) (081) 568-5150
e-mail: jantz@starsandstripes.com

SPAIN

Reto: Scott Jones, FPO 815, Box 1, FPO AF 09645, tel. USN 72-1099 or cv (+34) 956-82-1099, fax USN 72-1094 or cv (+34) 956-82-1034
e-mail: reto@starsandstripes.com

UNITED KINGDOM

RAF Mildenhall: Ron Jensen, Building 465 ECSS-UK, RAF Mildenhall, Norfolk, UK, tel. USN 238-6888 or cv (+44) (0) 1530-544688; fax (+44) (0) 1539-718033
e-mail: jensen@starsandstripes.com

WASHINGTON DC

Bureau editor: Patrick Dickson, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1101, tel. (+1) (202) 763-0853, e-mail: dickson@starsandstripes.com
Liaisons: Joe Burgess, tel. (+1) (703) 692-1475; Jan Anderson, tel. (+1) (703) 695-8264; and Lane Strain, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1101, tel. (+1) (202) 763-1183; fax (+1) (202) 763-1480; e-mail: jan@starsandstripes.com, anderson@starsandstripes.com and strain@starsandstripes.com

Printed in Italy by Edizione Telematica

Stars and Stripes (ISSN 0757-2722) is published daily (except Christmas and New Year) for 30 cents daily and is Sunday by the Stars and Stripes central office, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1101. Pre-orders postage paid at Washington, DC. Postmaster: Send address changes to Stars and Stripes, Unit 25480, AFPO 09211.
© European and Pacific Stars and Stripes 2004

This newspaper is published for publication by the Department of Defense for members of the Military Services overseas. However, the contents of the Stars and Stripes are not published for or by the Department of Defense or the U.S. Government, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, including the Department of Defense or the U.S. European Command. As a paid newspaper, the Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels, and use appropriated funds to promote the mission and related activities where overseas DoD personnel are located. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including notices or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or the Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age, handicap, sexual orientation, or any other nonrelevant factor of the purchase, use, or patron.

Analyst endangers troops

When did it become OK for journalists and authors to endanger the lives of Americans fighting for our country? The article "Code names secret no longer" (Jan. 24, European edition) discusses the latest book by author/military analyst William M. Arkin. He has blown the top off of 3,000 military code names and projects. In effect, he has provided more information for the terrorists — just what they need, another tool to help kill more U.S. soldiers and civilians. He claims that the current classification system is broken; however it is still a classification system and is in effect to protect sensitive information related to national security.

Arkin is described as a "military analyst and former Army intelligence officer." Did he get kicked out of the military? Is he disgruntled? Will this help the United States?

If Arkin would like to help, then perhaps he should work with the government and not against it. Journalists need to realize that these are fellow Americans: sons, daughters, fathers and mothers fighting terrorism, not statistics. I don't want to lose any more friends to the global war on terror, so please quit giving the terrorists what they want: the spotlight on the evening news and more information to use against us. Secrets need to be kept, the public might not like that, but there is a reason: freedom and safety.

Sfc. Jonathan R. Lovins
Stuttgart, Germany

All in combat deserve badge

Why isn't every soldier in the war getting combat badges? Some soldiers are up in arms about a Combat Infantryman's Badge awarded without the 11B military occupational specialty. This is nonsense! Are not all soldiers infantry first? Predominant training involves weeks of 11B tactics. Then this training is used during a tour of duty. Not to mention, it only takes two weeks in the National Guard to earn the 11B designation.

This is a different war, which means different rules. There are no front lines. The suicide bombing in the Mosul church hall ex-

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

Send your letters to:

U.S. Mail: International mail: Stars and Stripes Postfach 1530 63435 Griesheim
Via fax: (Country code +49) (0) 6155-601395; fax (+49) 6335
E-mail: letters@mail.starsandstripes.com

embles this. The enemy is among us, everyone is on the front line.

Serving in Iraq as a 91W (medic), I have three other MOSs, including 11B. With missions outside the wire, riding in convoys and the incoming mortars in our operating base, should I not receive a combat badge? I believe the soldier makes the medal, the medal does not make the soldier. Still, military awards are great for morale, unit cohesion and distinguishing one's work and sacrifice.

I want my silly little badge. I asked to go to combat. I will probably be here for more than a year. There is nothing wrong in feeling proud of our sacrifice and wanting to show it. We have earned it.

Sgt. Victor A. Ioffredo
Northern Iraq

Press shirking duty in Iraq

I'm a soldier wrapping up a year in Iraq. I've followed the news all year and warned my family and friends that they are not hearing the full story.

There's been a lot accomplished this past year. Why, they wonder, aren't the achievements of the Iraqis and the coalition being reported? What better way of honoring those who have fallen, and substantiating the sacrifices of all, than by tell-

ing the world of their good works? It doesn't make sense. The free press of the greatest free nation on Earth ignores the other half of the story.

Now the Iraqi elections are about to commence, and the American press is busy reporting the gloom and doom of violence. This is exactly the kind of advertising the insurgents need to discourage a good portion of voters.

A tally of the number of schools built, hospitals operational, electricity restored, jobs created... they say it's just too damn boring to sell papers in America. Doesn't reach out and grab viewers like good-old smoke and destruction, does it? But that is desperately needed to fully inform the Iraqi voters — the families with the most to lose from these omissions in reporting, people who will risk their lives just walking to the polls. They'd be very interested to know. The soldiers patrolling their streets would be interested, and relieved, to have the true support of America's free press. The soldiers know the sacrifice. They need to know what their efforts have achieved.

I'm disgusted watching the American press shirk its duty while I fulfill mine. This is not some kind of trap game. Iraqis and members of the coalition will live or die over this election. If members of the American press were so concerned with honoring our servicemen, they would report the other side of the story and continue until Election Day in Iraq. In-depth coverage and banner headlines — the Iraqis certainly won't see that on Al-Jazeera!

Capt. James Arceo
Camp Victory, Kuwait

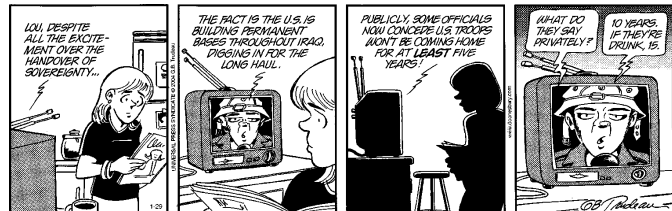
Rich not doing share in Iraq

All the hullabaloo over the CBS report on President Bush's National Guard records would not have happened if both Bushes had told the truth about all known most of the rich and shameless never go to war unless they want to. Just look at our Congress — how many have any kin in the war on terrorism? Also look at the poor souls who are out there now, and the families that don't have enough funds to live their lives because they lost their loved ones. And that's what it is all about.

Alexander Fiore
Camp Darby, Italy

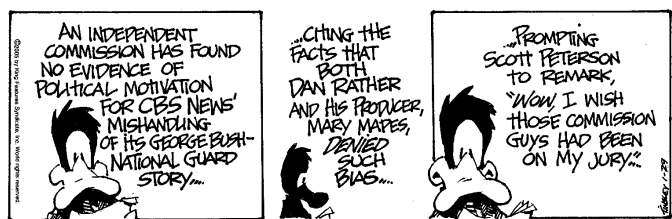
BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury Flashbacks



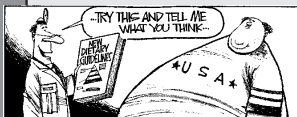
Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



DICK LOCHER/Tribune Media Services

JOHNNY'S GUESTS TONIGHT ARE... WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, MARK TWAIN, WILL ROGERS, MAE WEST, JIMMY STEWART AND ELVIS... AND NOW... --HEEEERE'S--



CHARLIE DANIEL/Scrapps Howard

...IF JOB PERFORMANCE REVIEWS WERE LIKE CONDI RICE'S SENATE CONFIRMATION HEARING...



WALT HANDELSMAN/Tribune Media Services



GLENN MCCOY/Universal Press Syndicate

YOUR MONEY

Let's benefits put us back on the fast track

BY GREG JAFFE

The Wall Street Journal

WASHINGTON — With the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan badly straining its forces, the Pentagon is facing an awkward proposal: Military retirees and their families are absorbing billions of dollars that military leaders would rather use to help troops fighting today.

Congress, pressured by veterans groups, has in recent years boosted military pensions, health insurance and benefits for widows of retirees. Internal Pentagon documents forecast that the lawmakers' generosity since 1999 will force the federal government to find about \$100 billion over the next six years to cover the new benefits.

"The amounts have gotten to the point where they are hurtful. They are taking away from the nation's ability to defend itself," says David Chu, the Pentagon's undersecretary for personnel and readiness.

Rising veterans' benefits are a big factor behind the billions of dollars in weapons cuts to be proposed when President Bush unveils next year's budget blueprint early next month. New retiree entitlements also are crippling the Pentagon's ability to increase incentives for enlistment at a time of dangerous, yearlong Iraq deployments.

The military's budget woe was similar to the broader problem

facing the U.S. government, as spending on aging baby boomers — in the form of Social Security and Medicare — squeezes out funds for other programs, from health care for the poor to scientific research. The pinch is exacerbated by Bush's campaign promise not to raise taxes. The private sector, particularly auto makers and the steel industry, is being similarly squeezed. Many companies are holding the line and in some cases cutting spending on pensions and health care for future retirees.

The Pentagon, which faces an increasingly aggressive and effective veterans lobby, doesn't have that luxury. The main force among veterans groups has been the Military Officers Association of America, an Alexandria, Va.-based group boasting about 400,000 dues-paying members and a board packed with retired generals and admirals.

MOAA has an ambitious agenda for 2005, listing on its Web site 16 goals for further expanding retiree and survivor benefits.

Earlier this month, its members flooded Capitol Hill with about 16,000 brown bags with hand-written messages urging lawmakers to exempt World War II and Korean War retirees from Medicare premium payments. The message: Veterans were being treated like old paper bags to be discarded after use.

"We in the military have long had pay scales below our civilian counterparts," says retired Vice Adm. Norb Ryan, the MOAA's president. In exchange, the military offered troops a generous retirement and health-care package.

"Now some in the Pentagon want to walk away from that. That is a very dangerous thing," Ryan says.

The politics of veterans benefits, meanwhile, are roiling the Republican Congressional majority. Earlier this month, the House Republican leadership took the unusual step of stripping New Jersey Rep. Christopher Smith of his chairmanship of the Veterans Affairs Committee. Smith had urged

House leaders when he pushed so aggressively for veterans benefits that he at times threatened to oppose their spending plans — and President Bush's — unless more retiree benefits were included.

The rise of the veterans lobby marks a dramatic shift in modern military spending. "If you look back to the history of the all-volunteer force going back to 1973, the Congress has in general deferred to the executive branch on major pay and benefit changes," Chu says.

That began to change in the late 1990s, when veterans groups charged that the federal government was renegeing on promises made by recruiters in the 1940s and '50s to provide free cradle-to-grave medical care to military retirees who served a 20-year career. They took out ads on the radio and flooded newspapers with letters to the editor saying the military was letting down the "Greatest Generation."

"There was tremendous emotion. The groups were highly organized," says retired Gen. Jack Keane, who was on active duty at the time. Senior military officers worried the widespread allegations of broken promises from veterans groups were hurting military recruiting, Keane recalls. Many officers, including Keane himself, sympathized with the retirees.

Over the objections of the Clinton Pentagon, but with the support of then-Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Henry Shelton, Congress in 2000 opened the military's generous health-care program to over 65 retirees who in the past had been forced to rely solely on Medicare. The change will cost the federal government more than \$8 billion for this fiscal year ending Sept. 30, the Pentagon says.

gon says.

Lawmakers also changed the military retirement system to allow troops with 20 years of service to collect 50 percent military pay upon retirement instead of 40 percent.

Almost every year since then, Congress has pushed through billion-dollar increases in personnel benefits. The projected growth in retiree benefits of the next six years would be \$55 billion in cuts to new fighter jet, ship and submarine programs proposed by the Bush administration in December and spread out over the same six-year period.

The largesse has grown with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which mark the first time in the past century that the United States has had to wage sustained combat with an all-volunteer force. Members of Congress use any opportunity to see off soldiers or welcome them home. "The first question the lawmakers ask is, 'What can we do for you?' Then they do it," says one senior Army official.

The sharp reductions in the number of World War II, Korea and Vietnam veterans serving in Congress and in the top ranks of government may help explain some of the veterans groups' influence.

Lawmakers who didn't serve in the military are more apt to be intimidated by veterans groups, says Tom Philpott, an expert on military benefits who writes a syndicated column on the subject for several military Web sites and newspapers, including Stars and Stripes.

"I think there is a guilty conscience among those who didn't serve. They say to themselves, 'I didn't serve. But I am sure as heck not going to short-sheet those who have,'" he says.

THURSDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
	High	Low	Home	
10,643.81	1,058.41			
3,832.38	2,743.46			
10,578.29	259.86			
7,717.31	6,211.33			
1,477.40	1,150.74			
2,116.14	1,250.82			
1,217.00	1,060.72			
544.29	549.29			
656.11	515.90			
12,246.32	10,358.52			

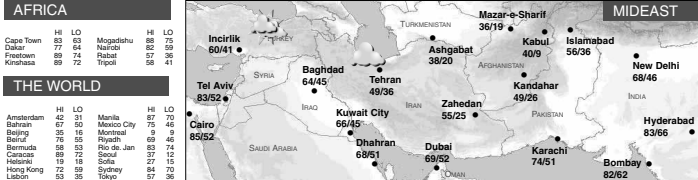
NYSE				
Most Active (\$1.00 or more)				
Recent	405,721	1.30	+0.40	
Smallcap	3,270,115	1.10	+0.10	
Midcap	2,719,878	2,167.0	+1.10	
Pharm	290,765	2,438	+0.10	
Energy	2,889,111	21.86	+0.30	
Flowers	27,170	17.29	+1.10	
Pharm	1,172,162	1,037.42	+1.10	
Commod	12,081	10.75	+0.20	

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS				
	Home	FE	LA	NYC
Alliant Techsystems	-1.07	60.02	+1.01	+1.0
Airbus Industries	49.19	47.15	+1.10	
Bombard	10.11	50.21	+1.10	+1.0
Boeing	78.11	77.00	+1.10	
General Dynamics	37.11	37.00	+1.10	
Lockheed Martin	52.11	51.00	+1.10	
Northrop	52.11	51.00	+1.10	
Raytheon	52.11	51.00	+1.10	
Rockwell	52.11	51.00	+1.10	
Textron	14.10	14.00	+1.10	
United Technologies	14.10	14.00	+1.10	

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
	Home	NAV	CHG	YTD
Fidelity Invest. Growth	37.11	37.11	+1.10	
Fidelity Invest. Growth	37.11	37.11	+1.10	
Fidelity Invest. Growth	37.11	37.11	+1.10	
Fidelity Invest. Growth	37.11	37.11	+1.10	
Fidelity Invest. Growth	37.11	37.11	+1.10	
Fidelity Invest. Growth	37.11	37.11	+1.10	
Fidelity Invest. Growth	37.11	37.11	+1.10	
Fidelity Invest. Growth	37.11	37.11	+1.10	
Fidelity Invest. Growth	37.11	37.11	+1.10	
Fidelity Invest. Growth	37.11	37.11	+1.10	

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro buys	\$1,349.00
British pound	\$0.7458
Japanese yen (Jan. 29)	101.00
South Korean won (Jan. 29)	1,001.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrayn (Dinar)	\$1,759.00
British pound	\$0.7458
Canada (Dollar)	\$1.2374
Denmark (Krone)	\$6.56
Egypt (Pound)	\$1,304.00
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$7.8716
Hungary (Forint)	160.27
Iceland (Krona)	\$62.215
Israel (Shekel)	\$4.002
Japan (Yen)	103.03
Kuwait (Dinar)	\$2.910
Norway (Krone)	\$5.37
Philippines (Peso)	\$53.7
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.58
Singapore	\$1.366
South Korea (Won)	\$1,007.50
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1.46
Thailand (Baht)	\$36.48
Taiwan (New Dollar)	\$36.48
Malaysia (Ringgit)	\$36.48
Myanmar (Kyat)	\$36.48
Nepal (Rupee)	\$36.48
Oman (Rial)	\$36.48
Pakistan (Rupee)	\$36.48
Peru (Sol)	\$36.48
Portugal (Escudo)	\$36.48
Qatar (Riyal)	\$36.48
Romania (Leu)	\$36.48
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$36.48
Singapore	\$1.366
South Korea (Won)	\$1,007.50
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1.46
Thailand (Baht)	\$36.48
Taiwan (New Dollar)	\$36.48
Malaysia (Ringgit)	\$36.48
Myanmar (Kyat)	\$36.48
Nepal (Rupee)	\$36.48
Oman (Rial)	\$36.48
Pakistan (Rupee)	\$36.48
Peru (Sol)	\$36.48
Portugal (Escudo)	\$36.48
Qatar (Riyal)	\$36.48
Romania (Leu)	\$36.48
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$36.48
Singapore	\$1.366
South Korea (Won)	\$1,007.50
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1.46
Thailand (Baht)	\$36.48
Taiwan (New Dollar)	\$36.48
Malaysia (Ringgit)	\$36.48
Myanmar (Kyat)	\$36.48
Nepal (Rupee)	\$36.48
Oman (Rial)	\$36.48
Pakistan (Rupee)	\$36.48
Peru (Sol)	\$36.48
Portugal (Escudo)	\$36.48
Qatar (Riyal)	\$36.48
Romania (Leu)	\$36.48
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$36.48
Singapore	\$1.366
South Korea (Won)	\$1,007.50
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1.46
Thailand (Baht)	\$36.48
Taiwan (New Dollar)	\$36.48
Malaysia (Ringgit)	\$36.48
Myanmar (Kyat)	\$36.48
Nepal (Rupee)	\$36.48
Oman (Rial)	\$36.48
Pakistan (Rupee)	\$36.48
Peru (Sol)	\$36.48
Portugal (Escudo)	\$36.48
Qatar (Riyal)	\$36.48
Romania (Leu)	\$36.48
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$36.48
Singapore	\$1.366
South Korea (Won)	\$1,007.50
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1.46
Thailand (Baht)	\$36.48
Taiwan (New Dollar)	\$36.48
Malaysia (Ringgit)	\$36.48
Myanmar (Kyat)	\$36.48
Nepal (Rupee)	\$36.48
Oman (Rial)	\$36.48
Pakistan (Rupee)	\$36.48
Peru (Sol)	\$36.48
Portugal (Escudo)	\$36.48
Qatar (Riyal)	\$36.48
Romania (Leu)	\$36.48
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$36.48
Singapore	\$1.366
South Korea (Won)	\$1,007.50
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1.46
Thailand (Baht)	\$36.48
Taiwan (New Dollar)	\$36.48
Malaysia (Ringgit)	\$36.48
Myanmar (Kyat)	\$36.48
Nepal (Rupee)	\$36.48
Oman (Rial)	\$36.48
Pakistan (Rupee)	\$36.48
Peru (Sol)	\$36.48
Portugal (Escudo)	\$36.48
Qatar (Riyal)	\$36.48
Romania (Leu)	\$36.48
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$36.48
Singapore	\$1.366
South Korea (Won)	\$1,007.50
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1.46
Thailand (Baht)	\$36.48
Taiwan (New Dollar)	\$36.48
Malaysia (Ringgit)	\$36.48
Myanmar (Kyat)	\$36.48
Nepal (Rupee)	\$36.48
Oman (Rial)	\$36.48
Pakistan (Rupee)	\$36.48
Peru (Sol)	\$36.48
Portugal (Escudo)	\$36.48
Qatar (Riyal)	\$36.48
Romania (Leu)	\$36.48
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$36.48
Singapore	\$1.366
South Korea (Won)	\$1,007.50
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1.46
Thailand (Baht)	\$36.48
Taiwan (New Dollar)	\$36.48
Malaysia (Ringgit)	\$36.48
Myanmar (Kyat)	\$36.48
Nepal (Rupee)	\$36.48
Oman (Rial)	\$36.48
Pakistan (Rupee)	\$36.48
Peru (Sol)	\$36.48
Portugal (Escudo)	\$36.48
Qatar (Riyal)	\$36.48
Romania (Leu)	\$36.48
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$36.48
Singapore	\$1.366
South Korea (Won)	\$1,007.50
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1.46
Thailand (Baht)	\$36.48
Taiwan (New Dollar)	\$36.48
Malaysia (Ringgit)	\$36.48
Myanmar (Kyat)	\$36.48
Nepal (Rupee)	\$36.48
Oman (Rial)	\$36.48
Pakistan (Rupee)	\$36.48
Peru (Sol)	\$36.48
Portugal (Escudo)	\$36.48
Qatar (Riyal)	\$36.48
Romania (Leu)	\$36.48
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$36.48
Singapore	\$1.366
South Korea (Won)	\$1,007.50
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1.46
Thailand (Baht)	\$36.48
Taiwan (New Dollar)	\$36.48
Malaysia (Ringgit)	\$36.48
Myanmar (Kyat)	\$36.48
Nepal (Rupee)	\$36.48
Oman (Rial)	\$36.48
Pakistan (Rupee)	\$36.48
Peru (Sol)	\$36.48
Portugal (Escudo)	\$36.48
Qatar (Riyal)	\$36.48
Romania (Leu)	\$36.48
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$36.48
Singapore	\$1.366
South Korea (Won)	\$1,007.50
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1.46
Thailand (Baht)	\$36.48
Taiwan (New Dollar)	\$36.48
Malaysia (Ringgit)	\$36.48
Myanmar (Kyat)	\$36.48
Nepal (Rupee)	\$36.48
Oman (Rial)	\$36.48
Pakistan (Rupee)	\$36.48
Peru (Sol)	\$36.48
Portugal (Escudo)	\$36.48
Qatar (Riyal)	\$36.48
Romania (Leu)	\$36.48
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$36.48
Singapore	\$1.366
South Korea (Won)	\$1,007.50
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1.46
Thailand (Baht)	\$36.48
Taiwan (New Dollar)	\$36.48
Malaysia (Ringgit)	\$36.48
Myanmar (Kyat)	\$36.48
Nepal (Rupee)	\$36.48
Oman (Rial)	\$36.48
Pakistan (Rupee)	\$36.48
Peru (Sol)	\$36.48
Portugal (Escudo)	\$36.48
Qatar (Riyal)	\$36.48
Romania (Leu)	\$36.48
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$36.48
Singapore	\$1.366
South Korea (Won)	\$1,007.50
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1.46
Thailand (Baht)	\$36.48
Taiwan (New Dollar)	\$36.48
Malaysia (Ringgit)	\$36.48
Myanmar (Kyat)	\$36.48
Nepal (Rupee)	\$36.48
Oman (Rial)	\$36.48
Pakistan (Rupee)	\$36.48
Peru (Sol)	\$36.48
Portugal (Escudo)	\$36.48
Qatar (Riyal)	\$36.48
Romania (Leu)	\$36.48
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$36.48
Singapore	\$1.366
South Korea (Won)	\$1,007.50
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1.46
Thailand (Baht)	\$36.48
Taiwan (New Dollar)	\$36.48
Malaysia (Ringgit)	\$36.48
Myanmar (Kyat)	\$36.48
Nepal (Rupee)	\$36.48
Oman (Rial)	\$36.48
Pakistan (Rupee)	\$36.48
Peru (Sol)	\$36.48
Portugal (Escudo)	\$36.48
Qatar (Riyal)	\$36.48
Romania (Leu)	\$36.48
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$36.48
Singapore	\$1.366
South Korea (Won)	\$1,007.50
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1.46
Thailand (Baht)	\$36.48
Taiwan (New Dollar)	\$36.48
Malaysia (Ringgit)	\$36.48
Myanmar (Kyat)	\$36.48
Nepal (Rupee)	\$36.48
Oman (Rial)	\$36.48
Pakistan (Rupee)	\$36.48
Peru (Sol)	\$36.48
Portugal (Escudo)	\$36.48
Qatar (Riyal)	\$36.48
Romania (Leu)	\$36.48
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$36.48
Singapore	\$1.366
South Korea (Won)	\$1,007.50
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1.46
Thailand (Baht)	\$36.48
Taiwan (New Dollar)	\$36.48
Malaysia (Ringgit)	\$36.48
Myanmar (Kyat)	\$36.48
Nepal (Rupee)	\$36.48
Oman (Rial)	\$36.48
Pakistan (Rupee)	\$36.48
Peru (Sol)	\$36.48
Portugal (Escudo)	\$36.48
Qatar (Riyal)	\$36.48
Romania (Leu)	\$36.48
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$36.48
Singapore	\$1.366
South Korea (Won)	\$1,007.50
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1.46
Thailand (Baht)	\$36.48
Taiwan (New Dollar)	\$36.48
Malaysia (Ringgit)	\$36.48
Myanmar (Kyat)	\$36.48
Nepal (Rupee)	\$36.48
Oman (Rial)	\$36.48
Pakistan (Rupee)	\$36.48
Peru (Sol)	\$36.48
Portugal (Escudo)	\$36.48
Qatar (Riyal)	\$36.48
Romania (Leu)	\$36.48
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$36.48
Singapore	\$1.366
South Korea (Won)	\$1,007.50
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1.46
Thailand (Baht)	\$36.48
Taiwan (New Dollar)	\$36.48
Malaysia (Ringgit)	\$36.48
Myanmar (Kyat)	\$36.48
Nepal (Rupee)	\$36.48
Oman (Rial)	\$36.48
Pakistan (Rupee)	\$36.48
Peru (Sol)	\$36.48
Portugal (Escudo)	\$36.48
Qatar (Riyal)	\$36.48
Romania (Leu)	\$36.48
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$36.48
Singapore	\$1.366
South Korea (Won)	\$1,007.50
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1.46
Thailand (Baht)	\$36.48
Taiwan (New Dollar)	\$



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Cloudy with rain showers and snow showers. Highs in the lower 30s. Sunday lows in the mid 20s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the 40s. Sunday lows in the lower 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Cloudy with snow. Highs in the upper 20s to lower 30s. Sunday lows in the 20s.

France: Mostly cloudy with rain showers and snow showers. Highs in the lower 30s to lower 40s. Sunday lows in the upper 20s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with snow showers. Highs in the mid 20s to lower 30s. Sunday lows in the lower teens to lower 20s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy. Snow showers on Sunday morning. Highs in the 20s. Sunday lows in the mid teens to lower 20s.

Hungary: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 20s. Sunday lows in the lower teens.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy with snow. Highs in the lower 30s to lower 40s. Sunday lows in the mid 20s to lower 30s.

Southern Italy: Mostly cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the lower 40s to lower 50s. Sunday lows in the lower 30s.

Kosovo: Cloudy with snow. Highs in the upper 20s. Sunday lows in the lower to mid 20s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s to mid 40s. Sunday lows in the mid 20s to mid 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s to lower 50s. Sunday lows in the lower 20s to lower 30s.

Turkey: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. Sunday lows in the mid 30s to mid 40s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at: <https://ows.sembach.af.mil>
<http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON



TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Albino, Tex.	57	42	OK	Cleveland	32	24	PCly	Hamburg	35	21	PCly	Nashville	40	35	Rain	San Angelo	60	45	PCly
Albino, Tex.	57	42	OK	Colorado Springs	32	24	PCly	Hartford	35	21	PCly	New Orleans	66	54	City	San Antonio	60	50	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Columbia, S.C.	34	24	City	Houston	49	33	PCly	New York City	34	27	City	San Diego	60	47	PCly
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Columbus, Ohio	33	24	City	Indianapolis	65	55	City	Newark	34	25	City	San Francisco	60	47	PCly
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Concord, N.H.	32	11	PCly	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Northville	38	33	PCly	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dallas/Ft. Worth	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.	58	44	OK	Dayton	57	58	City	Los Angeles	72	60	City	Oakland	46	37	Rain	Seattle	61	49	City
Albino, N.Y.</																			

'Old School' party

NC DURHAM — In what police say was an homage to the movie "Old School," partying Duke University students were found in a fraternity house basement with an inflatable pool, a whole lot of baby oil and women in bikinis.

Police came upon the scene early Sunday after responding to a noise complaint.

Officers said they cleared the house of the 200 revelers, sending some of the women home in the subfreezing temperatures in nothing more than the bikinis they wore.

Dorm fire remembered

NJ SOUTH ORANGE — Relatives of people killed in a Seton Hall dormitory fire in 2000 gathered to gather on campus Wednesday to mark the fifth anniversary of the blaze that left three freshmen dead. Two students were indicted in June 2003 on murder and arson charges and are free on bail pending trial. They have maintained their innocence.

Prairie dog not a pest

SD PIERRE — A legislative committee killed a bill to designate the black-tailed prairie dog as a state pest after game officials said the measure could wreck their efforts to control the critters. The legislation could lead environmental groups to renew efforts to have the animal designated as endangered, officials said. That could interfere with ongoing state programs.

Poor park programs

CA FRESNO — Thousands of California students are turned away from national park education programs each year because of insufficient funding and staff reductions, according to a study.

The report released Wednesday by the National Parks Conservation Association examined education programs at 11 of California's 24 national parks. It found that more than 80,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade participate in the programs each year, or 1 percent of the state's 7 million public and private school students.

"Part of providing a high-quality education to our children is ensuring access to the unique learning opportunities in our national parks," said Deborah DeMeo, the association's California desert field representative.

Drug testing for officials

NM SANTA FE — A lawmaker wants New Mexico to require yearly random drug testing of all its elected officials, from school board members to U.S. senators, with results posted on the Internet.

"I think we need to remember that we are public servants," Republican state Sen. Steve Komadina said Tuesday.

His bill was prompted by last year's drug-related arrests of a



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

prominent New Mexico judge and a public utilities commissioner.

Tim Storey, a senior fellow at the National Conference of State Legislatures, said he knew of no other state that requires such testing.

Poisoning of family

WI PORTAGE — A teenager put mouse poison into his family's food for five weeks before his stepfather discovered the pellets in some coffee grounds, according to a criminal complaint.

The 15-year-old was charged with three counts of attempted first-degree intentional homicide. A judge set bail at \$25,000 cash Wednesday.

When interviewed by police at school, the teen said he put poison in juice, milk, spaghetti, coffee and meat, according to the complaint. The boy told investigators that he did not want to kill his family, but wanted to make them sick because he was mad at them.

Walls must come down

VT JERICHO — A judge has ordered a Jericho man to tear down a house to restore a natural bird habitat in a wetland.

Larry Westall built the three-story, 30-foot-high house a



Hooded horse

Yep is dressed for the weather as she enjoys a bite of hay near Fairfield, Fla. The 3-year-old, whose formal name is Yep-Sho-Nut-Wil, seems to enjoy the cold weather that she woke up to on the Jenkin Just Right Thoroughbreds farm.

decade ago off Browns Trace Road in wetlands deemed important for migratory birds. Superior Court Judge Richard Norton recently upheld a state order that the house come down by June 1 because it doesn't comply with state wetland rules.

State officials were unaware of any previous case of a house being built in a Vermont wetland. In this case, the Class II wetland has a 50-foot protective buffer because it is considered significant.

The house has not been occupied because of problems Westall encountered in obtaining permits, officials said.

Shooting out windows

LA GRETNA — Six teenagers were accused of shooting out the windows of at least 242 vehicles in the New Orleans area, leaving behind at least \$100,000 in damage. They fired pellet guns while riding in a pickup truck, according to police. Authorities said the teens were arrested after a home surveillance camera caught them in action.

Roosters in the ring?

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — With cockfighting now banned in Oklahoma, one legislator is proposing a blood-free alternative: fitting roosters with little boxing gloves and letting them slug it out.

"Who's going to object to chickens fighting like humans do? Everybody wins," said Democratic state Sen. Frank Shurden, a protector of the gamefowl industry and a long-time defender of cockfighting, in which birds are fitted with razor-like spurs and often battle to the death.

Oklahoma voters banned cockfighting in 2002. The practice is still legal in Louisiana and New Mexico.

Life for serial rapists

MT HELENA — The Montana Supreme Court upheld a law requiring serial rapists to spend the rest of their lives in prison. The court said the law isn't unconstitutional because it's based on protecting society and discouraging repeated offenses. The decision upheld Charles Webb's life sentence for raping a woman in 2002, four months after he was released from prison for a 1995 rape.

Smokers: You're fired

MI LANSING — Four employees of a health care company have been fired for refusing to take a test to determine whether they smoke cigarettes.

Weyco Inc., a health benefits administrator based in Okemos, Mich., adopted a policy Jan. 1 that allows employees to be fired if they smoke, even if the smoking happens after business hours or at home.

Company founder Howard Weyers has said the anti-smoking rule was designed to shield the firm from high health care costs. "I don't want to pay for the results of smoking," he said.



Watch out!

Richard Zaleski clears snow from his porch roof in Syracuse, N.Y.



Taking to the air

in Beaufort, N.C.

A great grey heron flies off after snacking on fish along Taylors Creek



The braiding bunch Diana Boyles, 6, center, reacts to an educational video as she braids the hair of Sydney Hodges, 8, right, as her own hair is braided by Aubrey Scott, 7, left, at Valley Christian Academy in Roswell, N.M.



Cleaning up is fun A cleanup by the Almaraz family across from their home in Kansas City, Kan., netted old tires and several bags of trash. From left, Michael, 12; Bethany, 7; and Stephen, 6, chased one of the tires as they took it to the trash pile.



Trying to stay dry Raymond Frias took cover beneath his umbrella as he made his way through San Jacinto Plaza in El Paso, Texas.



In the hot seat Firefighters from five area fire departments responded to the blaze at the Old Hickory Furniture Company in Martinsville, Ind., where fire crews were handicapped in spraying water on the east side of the building because of high voltage lines.

Forced retirement

MD BALTIMORE — The Police Department is forcing 160 injured officers to retire after doctors determined they will never be fit for full duty. It's intended as a money-saving move that will allow the hiring of more patrol officers. The police union argues the department is casting off valuable employees.

Proof of citizenship

AZ PHOENIX — Arizona has become the first state to require proof of citizenship when registering to vote, a measure that supporters say is intended to prevent voter fraud.

The law went into effect Tuesday after being approved by voters in November. It requires that people provide proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, when registering to vote and show specified forms of identification when casting a ballot at a polling place.

A civil-rights group and Democratic legislators recently had urged the Department of Justice to reject the law. They argued the changes will erect barriers that will hinder minorities' participation in elections.

Proposed living wage

DC WASHINGTON — Public contractors would be required to pay their employees a "living wage" under a proposal introduced in the City Council. Member David Catania wants the rate to be at least \$10.50 an hour. Contracts under \$50,000 and contractors with fewer than 10 employees would be exempt.

Erosion in Great Lakes

MI TRAVERSE CITY — Lake Huron and Lake Michigan are losing vast amounts of water because of erosion from a decades-old dredging project, according to a new study.

The lakes, connected geologically, saw levels drop when a commercial navigation channel was dug at the bottom of the St. Clair River in 1962, boosting the flow south toward Lake Erie.

According to the report, riverbed erosion has contributed to a decline of 8 to 13 inches in the Huron-Michigan water level.

Several environmental organizations said the report illustrates the unintended consequences of dredging, sand mining, shoreline alteration.

Meth-use rate soaring

SD PIERRE — Healthcare advocates told legislators that methamphetamine use has skyrocketed in South Dakota. About 69 state residents per 100,000 were admitted for meth treatment in 2002, up from four per 100,000 a decade earlier, said Karen Larson, deputy director of the Community Healthcare Association of the Dakotas.

Outdoor smoking ban

CA SAN FRANCISCO — City officials voted Tuesday to ban smoking in all parks, public squares and many other outdoor

spaces owned by the city.

In an 8-3 vote, the Board of Supervisors agreed that the health and environmental risks associated with discarded cigarette butts and secondhand smoke merited bans for outdoor spaces.

Violators could be fined up to \$100 on first offense, \$200 for a second violation and \$500 for each additional violation.

Treatment for gamblers

LA BATON ROUGE — District attorneys from six parishes have signed on to a new program that puts those who commit nonviolent crimes because of a gambling addiction into treatment instead of prison. The program is funded through the Department of Health and Hospitals' Office for Addictive Disorders, Consequences and Problem Gambling Fund, which receives revenue from the gambling industry.

Tax glitch fixed

MA BOSTON — Early birds trying to file their tax returns electronically by phone found themselves asked to pay double their taxes for double their salary. The computer problem was fixed, state officials said, and the system is up and running again.

Bad online scores

CO DENVER — Students from kindergarten to 12th grade who take online courses in Colorado are performing worse than statewide averages, according to a state report.

Online students were forced to repeat grades four times more often than the statewide average last year, and a higher percentage were rated "unsatisfactory" on standardized math tests, according to Colorado Department of Education figures.

Online school operators defended their programs, saying they draw a high number of students who failed in traditional schools.

Restoration approved

HI LIHUE — The Kauai Planning Commission approved a \$200 million restoration of the famed Coco Palms Resort. Developer Richard Weiser said he plans to restore the hotel, closed since 1992, to the look it had in the 1950s and 1960s. The resort was used as a set in the 1961 Elvis Presley movie "Blue Hawaii."

Building drug bust

NH ROCHESTER — Police are investigating drug activity at an Academy Street apartment house and arrested five people this weekend.

Two people living in one of the apartments were arrested along with a third person visiting the home. Two others were arrested as they left the building. Three of those arrested face drug-related charges. Two were arrested on warrants stemming from other cases.

Police said they recovered an undisclosed quantity of prescription painkillers and drug paraphernalia.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

FACES

See Hawke juggle

Fans of the 'Assault on Precinct 13' star will be seeing a lot of him this year

BY STEVEN REA

Knight Ridder/Tribune

"There's something kind of pleasing about working inside these genres," says Ethan Hawke, who stars as a shellshocked police sergeant in the gleefully generic "Assault on Precinct 13."

"It's like jazz musicians, taking a very familiar, very commercial tune — say, 'Jingle Bells' — and then you put a spin on it. You know exactly how it's going to work. You just have to riff around it."

"Jingle Bells" is a good example, since "Assault on Precinct 13" — which opened in the States last week and is a remake of John Carpenter's 1976 police station siege pic — is set at the end of the Christmas holiday week, on New Year's Eve.

Hawke is the top gun in a virtually deserted Detroit precinct house, sharing the graveyard shift with an oversexed secretary (Drea De Matteo) and an over-the-hill beat cop (Brian Dennehy). And then a bus full of bad guys — among them Laurence Fishburne, John Leguizamo and Ja Rule — is diverted to the station, and Maria Bello, who plays Hawke's character's shrink, shows up too. And Gabriel Byrne chews up a lot of scenery as a tainted police detective. And then all heck breaks loose. "I knew of John Carpenter's movie," says Hawke about the original "Assault," which had a cast led by Austin Stoker, Darwin Joston and Laurie Zimmer. (Who, who and who?) "I'd seen it when I was younger, and then I never even really watched it again."

So when director Jean-François Richet and producer-writer James DeMonaco came along, Hawke sat and talked, and then he read the script. "I was looking to do something new, something that didn't take itself too seriously. I had a real good time working on 'Training Day,' and I was seeing if I could follow up that genre."

In some ways, Hawke's character, Jake Roenick, can be seen as the what-could-have-been continuation of his "Training Day" role — the new kid riding with the rogue L.A. narc played by Denzel Washington. (Washington won an Oscar for his work in the 2001 release, and Hawke was nominated for one.) As "Assault on Precinct 13" begins,



Actor Ethan Hawke has a lot of things going on right now: Rehearsals for the 20th-anniversary revival of David Rabe's lacerating Hollywood theater piece, "Hurly Burly," an Academy Award best screenplay nomination for "Before Sunset" and juggling down notes for his next novel.

Hawke is once again undercover, consorting with dealers, worried about the lives of his team.

"In a way, it could have been a sequel," he notes. "If Jake was sitting in a precinct house outside of L.A. instead of Detroit ... it could easily be where this guy had ended up."

"But all that is hindsight. Truth is, it was an entertaining script and I liked the part."

Hawke, 34, has a lot of things going on right now: He's in rehearsals for the 20th-anniversary revival of David Rabe's lacerating Hollywood theater piece, "Hurly Burly," which opens in New York Jan. 27 and also stars Bobby Cannavale, Parker Posey and Wallace Shawn.

In the past two weeks, he has landed an Academy Award best screenplay nomination and a Writers Guild award best screenplay nomination — in cahoots with director Richard Linklater and Julie Delpy — for "Before Sunset," a film he and Delpy starred in that landed on many a critic's Top 10 of 2004 list. Hawke reports that he's begun to "daydream" and jot down notes for his next novel (he's published two). And he recently finished up work on "Lord of War," with Nicolas Cage, Jared Leto and Bridget Moynahan. Andrew Niccol, who cast Hawke opposite Uma Thurman in 1997's "Gattaca," wrote and directed the tale of gun-runners in Africa.

"In a simplistic way, it's a portrait of the devil," says Hawke of the film, slated for a midyear release. "It answers the question: How do X million people die in Rwanda and in the Congo and Sierra Leone and these places? Well, somebody sells them AK-47s."

"Who is it that sells them? It's these guys that go to the poorest places in the world and sell arms to both sides of a dispute and then leave town."

"And they make millions and millions of dollars off of other people killing each other. It's kind of a fascinating episode."

Hawke, who plays a U.N. official in "Lord of War," is also looking to get a pet project, "Billy Dead," off the ground. "It's based on the novel by Lisa Readon. It's a very dark, weird little family drama ... I've been trying to get the movie made for years, but it doesn't seem to be one that is really capturing the financiers' attention."



Laurence Fishburne, left, and Ethan Hawke appear in the action flick "Assault on Precinct 13," which recently opened in the States.

Starr, Lee pair for comic book adventure

And you thought he could only play the drums. Former Beatle Ringo Starr and comic book mogul Stan Lee announced a partnership Wednesday to launch an original entertainment franchise of an animated persona based on and voiced by Starr.

"Ringo is beloved worldwide for his commitment to people and his singular wit," said Lee, the man responsible for the likes of Spider-Man and The Hulk. "Our Ringo Superhero character will combine these qualities, along with Ringo's secret powers which people generally didn't know about because he has kept them secret — until now."

Starr's alter ego is described as an "evil-battling, Earth-saving — though reluctant — superhero with a great sense of rhythm."

Financed, produced and distributed by IDT Entertainment, Lee's POW! Entertainment will develop the project alongside Starr's Rocca Bella company for television, DVD, publishing and other ventures.

Production on the series will begin this year, with a DVD planned for release in the beginning of 2006.



Starr

Late singer honored with stamp

The late singer Marian Anderson, famed for her contralto voice, was honored on a U.S. postage stamp in a ceremony Thursday.

First-day of issue ceremonies for the stamp were held at DAR Constitution Hall, where the singer was once deemed a chance to perform in the 1930s because she was black.

"There is no more richly deserving of such an honor," commented James DePreist, director of conducting at The Juilliard School in New York and Anderson's nephew.

"I hope that it will give an opportunity for there to be a focus of attention on her, particularly her artistry," he said.

DePreist likened Anderson's success to that of Jackie Robinson, the first black major league baseball player. "When history collides with what you just want to do, your career, then what happens depends on how much grace resides within you," he said.

Europe festival to feature Black Sabbath

Ozzy Osbourne and heavy metal pioneers Black Sabbath will be among the headliners at this year's Roskilde

Festival, one of Europe's largest music events.

Osbourne, who grew up in Birmingham, central England, rose to stardom with Black Sabbath in the 1970s before launching a solo career. It will be the band's sole summer festival appearance, organizers said Wednesday.

Last year, 75,000 tickets were sold for the outdoor event, where more than 150 artists, including the Pixies, Morrissey, Sahara Nightingales and Avril Lavigne, performed on Roskilde's six stages.

First held in 1971, the festival in Roskilde, 25 miles west of the capital, Copenhagen, was inspired by the 1969 Woodstock Festival in upstate New York. It attracts visitors from throughout Europe and the United States.

Dick Clark recuperating at home

"American Bandstand" icon Dick Clark is recuperating at home after a minor stroke put him in the hospital for more than seven weeks.

Clark, 75, returned to his Malibu home Wednesday and was grateful for the many cards and letters he received during his hospital stay, publicist Paul Shefrin said.

"He was very touched by the outpouring of support, not only from the celebrity world but from the people on the streets of New York," Shefrin said.

For the first time in 32 years, Clark was unable to host his "New Year's Rockin' Eve" show from Times Square. Daytime talk show host Regis Philbin stood in while Clark was in the hospital and

During the broadcast, fans on the street held up "Get Well Dick" signs.

Photos and stories from The Associated Press



Osbourne



Clark

Horoscope

Mercury enters Capricorn, and a more somber mode of conversation becomes appropriate. Getting the message across requires that we cross the 1s and dot the 1s. There's a certain fascination with the formalities of language and a delight in communication as an art form. Attract luck by polishing your verbal style.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (January 29). This year is characterized by a wallowing dose of financial luck in the first three months. Sure, money can't buy love. But it does allow you to relax and explore who you really are — and this attracts fantastic partners. The honest emotion you put out this spring is returned twice over. Sagittarius and Capricorn are true-blue romantic partners.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You can't put your finger on any one thing, but there does seem to be a joyful epidemic sweeping you up. Who needs a reason? Walk around with a big smile on your face, and see whom you can infect with it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The rebellious spirit seizes in. You don't feel completely satisfied unless you're doing something that would freak out your mother. This behavior, of course, is extremely attractive, especially to Scorpios and Leos.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're unconsciously trying to get someone's attention — probably someone who is so oblivious he or she might not even notice if you jumped out of a cake or parachuted from the sky. Don't take it personally.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Family brings a mixed blessing. Instead of resolving to take the good with the bad, make an effort to improve the bad. Everyone is better off for your effort. Confrontation isn't something to avoid at all costs after all.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If "play" is an art form, you become a fine artist today. Use mischief to add excitement to a relationship, cement

a friendship or put an intriguing flair into your creative work. Someone from the past gets back in communication.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You'll be called on to entertain. If you can't dazzle 'em with brilliance, baffle 'em with whatever comes off the top of your head. You are really more captivated than you think.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

You can spin a wild story from a few unrelated circumstances — just one of the ways you needlessly distract yourself. Don't give in to imaginary fears. If making one phone call can allay your paranoia, make the call.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

You can't resist someone with a devilish look in his or her eyes — but maybe you should. You're easily led down the windy path of mystery and thrills, but the real thrill comes from honoring prior commitments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Now, you're somewhat of an impossibility challenger. You take on the thing that requires the most discipline and training. If you put your mind to it, you could even break a Guinness World Record.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Success in entrepreneurial ventures could begin with a simple seminar or workshop. You'll never know if you don't sign up. Unemployed folks have exceptional luck finding work that is actually fun to do.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19).

Protect what you have. It's the best way to bring more of what you want into your life. Some of you, unfortunately, feel guilty about being too fulfilled. As if there were such a thing! Get rid of that baggage.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Take turns being the audience and the entertainer. If you feel like you are perpetually in the audience, vary your routine, and creativity returns. You deserve to be acknowledged for your talent.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



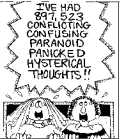
Jump Start



Zits



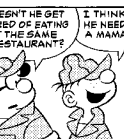
Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



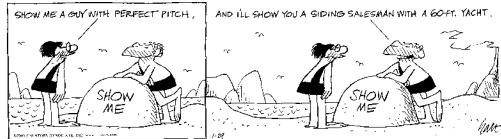
Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



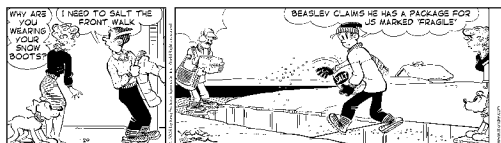
Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



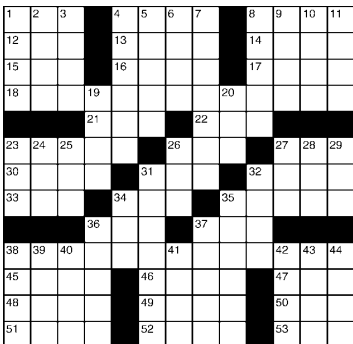
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Upper limit
4 Exchange
8 Walton and Waterston
12 Inseparable
13 Arizona tribe
14 Slightly
15 "Monty Python" opener
16 Mad king of literature
17 Llama land
18 Eponym of an Idaho jazz festival
21 U.K. ref. bk.
22 Rotation duration
23 "Pacific Overtures" setting
26 Co-host of "The View"
27 Moonshine holder
30 Beehive State
31 Indulge in fisticuffs
32 McGwire competitor
33 Cowboy's nickname
34 Enjoyment
35 Winning
36 Churchill's "so few" (Abbr.)
38 Back
39 "Baby, I Love Your Way" singer
45 Count
46 Jam ingredient?
47 Mimic
48 On the briny

Down

- 1 Spring wind?
2 Con
3 Chilean money
4 Ill will
5 Handle effectively
6 Asian nursemaid
7 Confusing contradiction
8 Over sentimental
9 Drive the getaway car
10 Painter Joan
11 Dazzle
12 Grandson of Methuselah
20 Cape —, N.J.
23 Protrude
24 Noshed
25 TV network
26 Garfield's owner
27 — Montana
28 OAS member
29 Roam about
31 Bewilder
32 Buy stuff
34 Somewhere out there
35 Weaponry storehouse
36 Take it easy
37 Deadily
38 Carrots' mates
39 Right on the map
40 Low club
41 Devastation
42 Mexican entree
43 October stone
44 Dweeb

Answer to Previous Puzzle



1-29

CRYPTOQUIP

T Z P H I W J X L Y P O C J X I Z E
W P N V L X W E P V J H P C J T P O N
E X R R J E P I Z J E P S W P

O P Y N H D X P H I R S C V P H I E .
Yesterday's Cryptquip: A LOCAL TAVERN HAS THIS MOTTO IN IT'S ADVERTISEMENTS: "THIRST COME, THIRST SERVED."

Today's Cryptquip Clue: R equals P

Mother-in-law needs her own life

Dear Abby: My husband and I are very happy. However, his mother is an intrusive pest. I am a stay-at-home mom, and she calls all day long. When I answer, I get an earful about how often her son calls or doesn't call her, or she finds fault with the things I do with my children. If I don't answer, she comes over to our house.

The other day, she knew that I was going to my mom's office to drop some stuff off and help her with some things. When I arrived, there was my husband's mother, sitting there waiting for me. Also, when my husband confides in her — like when I got pregnant — she takes it upon herself to call my family and announce it instead of allowing me to tell them myself.

I love my husband. We are happy together. But I have reached the point where I'm beginning to consider divorce in

order to get away from his mother. He has offered to speak to her, but I feel bad because I know she'll know I asked him to say something. What should I do?

Tearing My Hair Out

Dear Tearing: You have described a lonely, needy person with too much time on her hands. Rather than expecting you to entertain her, she needs to get a life of her own.

Your husband should talk to his mother and encourage her to find other interests. If she blames you, so be it. However, he would be doing her a favor to help her investigate what activities and opportunities are available for seniors in your community in case she's so passive she doesn't know how to reach out.



Dear Abby

Dear Abby: My companion and lover, "Jimmy," stole \$40 from some close friends of mine. He was caught, confronted, and paid the money back. I told

Jimmy if anything like that ever happened again, he was out the door.

I am willing to forget the incident and move on, however, my two friends feel differently. It has created a wedge between us. They continue to talk to me on the phone at work, but Jimmy's name is never mentioned. Yesterday, when I casually mentioned the four of us getting together, I was informed that it would never happen. I did nothing wrong, but I am feeling ostracized.

In the Middle in Columbia, S.C.
Dear In the Middle: You are not being ostracized, Jimmy is — and for good reason. He has sticky friends. Allow me to offer two suggestions: If he'd steal from your friends, he would also steal from you, so keep your valuables under lock and key. And socialize with your friends without him.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69404, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.ueypress.com/dearabby>
Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CLECY

©2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

VARAL

DYKLIN

GLABEN

www.jumble.com

Print answer here:

Answers Monday

Yesterday's Jumbles: WINCE HEDGE REBUKE COERCE
Answer: Knitted with a complex stitch — HER BROW

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers Monday

Yesterday's Jumbles: WINCE HEDGE REBUKE COERCE
Answer: Knitted with a complex stitch — HER BROW

Be honest with tag-a-long roommate

Dear Annie: I am a college sophomore, and I have a problem with my roommate, "Janie." Janie and I are friends, but not really close.

Whenever I am invited out, however, she assumes she is invited, too. I would feel awful telling her she can't come with, because I suspect she doesn't have any other friends. My friends like her well enough, but things always seem a little awkward when she's around.

Just because we're roommates, does that mean we are joined at the hip? I don't want to be mean to Janie, but this situation is really making me dislike her. Being with her 24/7 is too much time spent with one person. How can I distance myself from Janie, socially, without hurting her feelings?

Annoyed Roommate
Dear Annoyed: You and Janie are in college, now, and it's time for you to grit your teeth and take

Annie's Mailbox



on the hard tasks. Talk to Janie.

Explain that it isn't healthy (not to mention it can damage the friendship) to be together 24/7. She needs to develop her own social life and extracurricular activities. College provides a wonderful opportunity to meet a culturally diverse collection of people your own age, and she

shouldn't squander it. Encourage Janie to join some campus organizations, find a part-time job, do volunteer work or tutor. If things don't improve, you might consider finding another roommate next year.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Frustrated Parents in Illinois," who have a 4-year-old autistic son. He has trouble dealing with rude comments about their son's behavior in public. I have two autistic children and can relate.

The Autism Society of Ameri-

ca offers a business card you can hand to people. One side explains the characteristics of autism, and the other tells how to communicate with those who have autism.

I have presented this card to friends who were curious, to my son's T-ball coach and to complete strangers. It also includes a note to policemen, firemen, etc., that the autistic person may not understand or communicate, which makes it a good tool to place in your child's pocket or backpack.

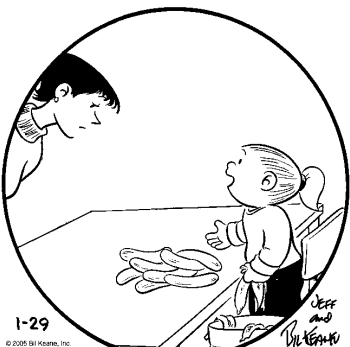
The card not only educates others, but it stops rude people in their tracks. You can order 100 of these cards for \$18 through the Autism Society of America (autism-society.org) at 1-800-3AUTISM (1-800-328-8476).

B.L.L.
Dear B.L.L.: What a wonderful resource. Thank you.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"I peeled all the bananas for our lunches next week."

GRAFFITI



NBA 3/29

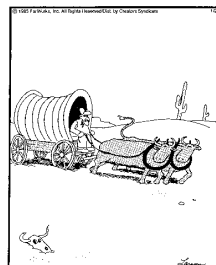
Domis the Menace



JOE'S GONNA BE THE WORLD'S FIRST TALKIN' SNOWMAN, COOL, HUH?

© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur



STRIPES CLASSIFIED

Tax Assistance 940

Crystal Point Accountancy

Do your own taxes online

No software to buy

No software to install

State and Federal plus efile and direct deposit...Only \$32.99

CrystalPointAccountancy.com

Real Estate 850



Enjoy a prestigious lifestyle

with your High Class Home.

Houses designed with American Features, organized by American engineer, Land Plot, and Finance Service included.

KAMPA

EXCLUSIVE HAUSER

Ask for Diana Burns:
cellular phone 01 71 - 9 55 84 62, diana.burns@kampa.de
or Gene Guffy: phone 0 631 - 48 07 23,
cellular phone 01 78 - 9 23 63 42, gene.guffy@aol.com

Jobs Offered 630

It's All About You!

EDS is one of the world's leading information and technology service providers with more than 130,000 employees in 60 countries. Our services range from management consulting and IT services to complete management of business operations.

EDS IS LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

For Army Human Resource System (AHRIS) Service Desk

Individual is needed for support of systems administration functions, which are primarily service desk tasks:

- Basic troubleshooting of user problems with desktop and application issues
- Knowledge of Windows NT 4.0, 2000, and XP desktop systems
- Reporting defective hardware for repair
- Fundamental knowledge of MS Office applications and Oracle clients
- Troubleshooting network issues with PCs and printers, understanding of TCP/IP network issues
- Good understanding of Active Directory administration
- Good written & oral communication skills and experience in training a plus
- Able to obtain U.S. Secret clearance

Position will not provide logistical support. Personnel must be available to start in February 2005. In order to be considered, please submit via fax or email.

Rob Woodrow

EDS U.S. Army European Operations Support

Phone: 06142-80-2703

Fax: 06142-80-4103

Rob.woodrow@eds.com

EDS is a registered mark and the EDS logo is a trademark of Electronic Data Systems Corporation. EDS is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The EDS logo is a trademark of EDS Corporation. Copyright 2004 Electronic Data Systems Corporation. All rights reserved.



Jobs Offered 630

CAN/LPN/MA - Full Time

Needed for busy

CHAMPUS Clinic in Schweinfurt

Fax/email resume to:

Gleim at 757.420.6616 and gschwein@neshold.com

ATTENTION LADIES LOOKING FOR A PART TIME JOB?

Wetzel & Lohr, an Exchange Division is looking for a Retail Specialist in the Ramstein and Kaiserslautern areas. Part time position with flexible hours for order taking, merchandising and stocking our fine line of products. Position open immediately. Please fax resume to: 06181-46080 or call: 06181-46081

TERRITORY MANAGER

F/T Territory Manager needed to sell and service Military Retail exchanges in the Vogelsheim/Ramstein, Heidelberg/Mannheim, area. Responsibilities include writing orders; driving sales, assist w/retail merchandising & managing employees. Product include the leading brands of prestige fragrances, consumer electronics, apparel & giftware. ID Card a plus. Starting @ \$32K (salary negotiable) plus Car Allowance & Expenses. Send resume to shance@mssco.com or call 06134-26709

Employment Opportunity!



The U.S. Army Medical Material Center, Europe (USAMME) is recruiting for a licensed REGISTERED NURSE (RN) with medical surgical and/or critical care experience for a permanent, full-time position as a Nurse Consultant (GS-04090). The desired candidate will have experience with both inpatient and ambulatory nursing care.

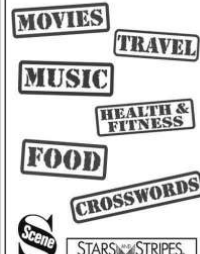
Duties include communicating with internal staff, external customers, and manufacturers/suppliers to identify product requirements; determining availability of required products; and identifying clinically appropriate and cost effective substitute items.

We are proud to offer a competitive salary and benefit package.

Interested candidate please call: DSN: 495 - 7230045 (Commercial - 06301 86720045) or fax resume to: Manpower Bureau, Personnel Management Division at: DSN: 495-4221 (Commercial 06301 866729)

Come and be part of our world-class Team!

What's your scene?



Buy Stripes this Sunday and every Sunday to get your scene!

Last-gasp NHL labor talks end in another stalemate

BY TOM GULITTI

The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

NEW YORK — The glimmer of hope for the 2004-05 NHL season appeared to flicker out following Thursday night's meeting in New York.

According to a source, the league submitted an informal proposal featuring several salary cap-based plans. Predictably, the players, who have repeatedly said that a cap is a non-starter, were not pleased.

"We continue to have significant philosophical differences," NHLPA senior director Ted Stastin said in a statement. "No meetings are scheduled and we will not make further comment at this time."

The latest breakdown could be a deathblow to the season, though both sides apparently agreed to keep open the lines of communication.

Although NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman refuses to issue a drop-dead date, it is believed a deal would have to be struck before the end of the month to play this season.

The sides had originally planned to continue talking Friday in New York. Scrapping the plan appeared to be another negative sign.

"We are finished for the night," an NHL spokesman said in a statement. "Nothing further is scheduled."

The "philosophical differences" Saskin spoke of continue to be the league's insistence on "cost certainty" in the form of a link between salaries and revenue and the players defining any such link as a salary cap.

Rumors swirled Thursday night about the content of the league proposal. One report said it included a team-by-team salary cap with no luxury tax. Earlier, sources talked of a compromise deal that would include a luxury tax triggered by a soft salary cap, a salary minimum per team and a hard cap ceiling.

TSN in Canada initially reported a plan that would feature a \$6 million individual salary limit — no player could earn more than \$6 million per season — plus a luxury tax on the team's total payroll, but later said that was not part of the league's proposal.

It was reported that the sides made little progress during Wednesday's 5½-hour meeting in Toronto, but they have picked up their pace considerably in the past week and a half. Thursday's meeting was their fourth in nine days after the sides met only twice during the previous four months.

The sides met for four hours Thursday. As with Wednesday's meeting, the location was undisclosed and Bettman and NHLPA executive director Bob Goodenow did not take part.

Canada coping without its national obsession

BY RACHEL BLOUNT

Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune

TORONTO — Busy as she was with the Hockey Hall of Fame inductions, Kelly Masse hadn't given much thought to the NHL lockout. Then came November, when she turned on the TV and came face-to-face with the gaping void disrupting her country.

Instead of "Hockey Night in Canada," she found a movie. In ensuing weeks, Masse grappled with the decline in visitors to the Hall of Fame, where she handles public relations; with the job worries of friends who work for teams; and with the stories of lonely restaurants and bars.

While many U.S. citizens aren't even aware of the lockout, the league's shutdown has staggered Canadians through the first four stages of NHL grief: sadness, anger, disgust and apathy.

Given Canadians' devotion to their national game, most expect the fifth to be forgiveness rather than abandonment. Until the labor strife ends, though, the national identity will be missing a few lines in its fingerprint.

"On a Saturday night, especially if it's snowing, you just want to watch a hockey game," Masse said. "Even if you're at a bar and you're not really watching it closely, it's just nice to have it there. For Canadians, this is a real struggle."

The NHL hasn't yet considered replacement players, but the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation already has its new lineup. Indiana Jones and Luke Skywalker are among those standing in for Mats Sundin and Jarome Iginla, and the new lineup surprisingly popular thus far.

The CBC has replaced its "Hockey Night in Canada" telecasts — a beloved Saturday institution for 52 years — with movies. The one on "Hockey Night" host Ron MacLean, who is introducing the films to an average of 900,000 viewers. NHL games draw an average of 1.2 million.

There are darker numbers, however. About 50 people who work exclusively on "Hockey Night" have been laid off, and CBC President Robert Rabinovich has predicted the network will lose \$20 million this season if the season is canceled.

All-sports network TSN is showing reruns of "classic" NHL games.

The weekly magazine "The Hockey News" is publishing every other week. Puck manufacturer InGlasco, which supplies the NHL, has laid off 20 of its 40 workers.

Based on government statistics, Toronto's Globe and Mail newspaper estimated the lost season could deliver a \$170 million hit to Canada's gross domestic product.

Boston police planning tight security on Super Sunday

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Police promised to be out in force on Super Bowl Sunday, hoping to discourage the mob behavior that has been an unfortunate byproduct of local sports teams' recent success and resulted in the deaths of two young people.

Police officials declined Thursday to detail their Super Bowl security strategy because all the details have yet to be worked out, but a high-ranking officer told The Boston Globe he believes the plan for Feb. 6 will be similar to that during the World Series between the Red Sox and the St. Louis Cardinals.

When the Red Sox clinched the world championship, more than 700 officers were in the streets around Fenway Park, using canisters of pepper spray and water hoses to control the crowds. Only a few minor injuries were reported.

Police Commissioner Kathleen M. O'Toole has issued a directive forbidding most officers from taking Super Bowl Sunday off.

Last year, only 43 officers were assigned to control celebrating crowds when the New England Patriots beat the Carolina Panthers for the NFL championship.

During the rioting, James Grabowski, a 21-year-old college student, died after he was run down by an alleged drunk driver near Northeastern University.

An internal report later said the police department's lack of preparation was "inevitable."

During rioting that followed the Red Sox's American League pennant victory in October, Victoria Spivey, a 21-year-old Emerson College student, died after she was struck in the eye by a police pepper pellet gun.

The police official told the Globe he believes these weapons will not be deployed for the Super Bowl.

Besides police preparations for Super Bowl Sunday:

■ O'Toole and Mayor Thomas M. Menino have scheduled meetings Monday with student leaders from area colleges and universities to discuss how students can help create a safe environment.

■ Northeastern University's entire police force, which numbers about 100, has been ordered to work on Super Bowl Sunday.

Northeastern officials also will meet daily next week to plan crowd control measures.

On Game day, Northeastern and Boston University will host alcohol-free game-night parties.

Northeastern spokesman Fred McGrail said that in addition to arrests by police, the university will expel or suspend students who misbehave.

John Perkins, president of the Student Government Association at Northeastern, said he is convinced that this year's events will prevent students from pouring into the streets.

"The huge prizes (a plasma screen television, other electronic products) and the scale of the event will draw the crowd in and out," he said. "It's more than just putting the game on the big screen."

Eagles' Burgess feeling productive again

Philadelphia DE overcomes injuries, compliments Kearse on line

BY DAN GELSTON

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Forget Terrell Owens, Devon Kearse and Brian Westbrook. Maybe the player the Philadelphia Eagles really needed to snap their three-year NFC championship game losing streak was Derrick Burgess.

After all, it was Burgess who harassed Atlanta's Michael Vick mercilessly and helped limit the NFL's top-ranked rushing offense to 89 yards. It was Burgess who had two sacks, six tackles and shut down running lanes that made Vick miserable.

Now he wants a similar performance against Tom Brady and the Patriots in the Super Bowl on Feb. 6.

"It feels good for the moment, but that was last week," Burgess said Thursday. "It's done now. Now, I've got to get out here this week and do it all over again."

Burgess can hardly be blamed for wanting the season to last as long as it possibly can. The fourth-year pro missed all but one game the past two years because of injuries. But his two-sack performance against the Falcons put everyone on notice that he's all the way back.

"To go through so much and be where I am right now with my teammates, it's just a beautiful thing," Burgess said.

Burgess missed the last 15 games of the 2002 season with a broken foot. Then last year, only says before the season opener, Burgess tore his Achilles' tendon and was out for the entire season.

One season-ending injury made him determined to return stronger this year. The next one made him wonder why the injuries kept happening.

Last summer it was hard for Burgess not to dwell on the nearly two full seasons he missed and wonder whether it could happen again.

"I don't want to say I had doubts, but I'll say concerns," he said. "But once you step on the field, it's all out the window. At



Philadelphia Eagles DE Derrick Burgess (56) harassed Atlanta Falcons QB Michael Vick (7) all day in the NFC championship game.

minicamp, it was over with. Whatever was going to happen was going to happen.

Burgess wasn't totally immune this season, either. He was off to a solid start with 2½ sacks and started 11 of 12 games until he separated his sternum against Green Bay on Dec. 5, causing him to miss the

minicamp, it was over with. Whatever was going to happen was going to happen.

Burgess wasn't totally immune this season, either. He was off to a solid start with 2½ sacks and started 11 of 12 games until he separated his sternum against Green Bay on Dec. 5, causing him to miss the

last four games of the regular season.

Still, defensive coordinator Jim Johnson thought Burgess could play better in the postseason.

"It's amazing that he's made it through this whole year," Johnson said. "He hasn't been a pleasant surprise because we always knew he was a good football player."

Burgess returned to start Philadelphia's first playoff game against Minnesota and did nothing in that one. No sacks, no tackles, no impact.

Maybe that's why Vick had no idea who that No. 56 was chasing him over the field. All Vick knew was that Kearse was on one end and "another good defensive lineman" on the other end created problems.

Burgess benefited from a tip that Eagles defensive line coach Tommy Brasher gave him. Brasher suggested that Kearse and Burgess swap sides. That put Burgess back on his more natural left side and the speedier Kearse on the right, allowing him to better fill the spot where the left-handed Vick was more likely to run.

When Vick tried to run from Kearse, he ran right into Burgess.

Brady presents a different problem, then the more mobile Vick and Minnesota's Daunte Culpepper. Brady stays in the pocket longer and doesn't beat a team with his feet like Vick.

"One is an athlete and one's a quarterback," Burgess said.

Johnson said he could flip-flop the side again to keep Burgess on the right side. Either way is fine with Burgess.

"As long as we can go down there and win, I'll do whatever it takes," Burgess said.

Ex-Syracuse coach Pasqualoni joins Cowboys staff

The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Former Syracuse head coach Paul Pasqualoni became the first new addition to Bill Parcells' coaching staff Thursday.

Pasqualoni, 55, has yet to be assigned a specific role. The only current vacancy on Parcells' staff is at tight end, following last season's release of offensive line coach George Warhop and kicking coach Steve Hoffman.

The team's former tight ends coach, Tony Sparano, was moved to replace Warhop.

Pasqualoni was fired after a 6-5 campaign last season. He was 107-59-1 in 14 seasons at Syracuse and led the Orange to nine bowl games.

Niners hire Saints' McCarthy as offensive coordinator

SAN FRANCISCO — Mike McCarthy will return the West Coast offense to the San Francisco 49ers after joining the club as coach Mike Nolan's offensive coordinator on Thursday.

The 49ers also hired George Warhop as their offensive line coach, adding two more veteran



NFL assistants to Nolan's new staff.

McCarthy spent the past five seasons as the New Orleans Saints, whose offense led the NFL in scoring in 2002. McCarthy also coached the quarterbacks at Green Bay and Kansas City — working with Brett Favre and Jon Montana — before joining the Saints.

Nolan pledged to bring the West Coast offense back to San Francisco when he was hired earlier this month.

Warhop spent the previous two seasons coaching the Dallas Cowboys' offensive line following five years with the Arizona Cardinals.

Raiders hire Colletto to coach offensive line

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Former Purdue head coach Jim Colletto was hired Thursday as offensive line coach for the Oakland Raiders.

Colletto was the head coach at Purdue from 1991-96, then spent

two seasons as Notre Dame's offensive coordinator before joining the Baltimore Ravens, where he spent the past six years. His offensive line helped Baltimore win a Super Bowl while blocking for Jamal Lewis.

But coach Brian Billick fired Colletto on Jan. 10, a week after offensive coordinator Matt Canavan resigned under pressure. The Ravens finished 31st in the NFL in total offense this season.

Colletto replaces Aaron Kromer, who left the Raiders earlier in the month to join the staff of former boss Jon Gruden in Tampa Bay.

Attorney: Ravens CB unfairly targeted by gambling probe

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Baltimore Ravens cornerback Corey Fuller was unfairly targeted by a gambling probe because of his celebrity, his attorney told a jury Thursday.

The 10-year NFL veteran was arrested in April when police broke up a high-stakes card game at his Tallahassee home. Fuller was charged with maintaining a gambling house, use of a firearm

in commission of a felony and misdemeanor gambling.

"The evidence is going to show the reason we're here is not what Mr. Fuller did, but who Mr. Fuller is," defense attorney Tim Jansen said in his opening statement.

Their investigation was detailed to target Mr. Fuller.

But prosecutor Matt Smith said the former Florida State star had a weapon on him while a card game was being played and received part of the pot for hosting the game.

"He was standing around the table like a pit boss ... he took his cut," Smith said in his opening statement.

Jansen noted that Fuller obtained a concealed weapons permit after a shootout at his home Jan. 21, 2004, an event that triggered the investigation among several legal agencies.

The defense also said a confidential informant used by local police at several of the games had seven felony convictions and was paid by authorities to get him information on what was going on inside Fuller's home.

If convicted, Fuller could face a maximum five-year sentence and \$5,000 fine.

Delgado finalizes deal; Larkin leading toward retiring

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Carlos Delgado is taking his anti-war protest to Florida.

With Delgado finalizing his \$52 million, four-year deal with the Marlins on Thursday, Magglio Ordonez made a counteroffer to the Detroit Tigers and Barry Larkin said he is leaning toward retirement.

Delgado, who accepted Florida's contract on Tuesday, said during his introductory news conference that he will continue not to stand during the playing of "God Bless America."

He refused to stand when "God Bless America" was played last season. Instead, he would stay on the Toronto Blue Jays bench or go into the dugout tunnel.

He didn't call it politics, because "I hate politics," Delgado said. "The reason why I didn't stand for 'God Bless America' was because I didn't like the way they tried 'God Bless America' and 9-11 to the war in Iraq in baseball."

Marlins officials, who gave Del-

Baseball roundup

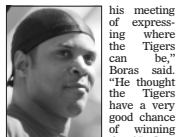
gado the richest pre-season contract in the team's 12-year history, made no objection to his war protest.

"The Marlins don't support it, and we don't not support it," team president David Samson said. "He's an adult. The club's position is that what he does is up to him."

Ordonez, the last remaining premier free agent, told agent Scott Boras to make the counterproposal to Detroit. The outfielder met Monday with Tigers owner Mike Ilitch, team president Dave Dombrowski and manager Alan Trammell.

"Mike Ilitch indicated he was interested in making a move that would dramatically affect the franchise," Boras said. Ordonez made \$14 million last year with the Chicago White Sox and is being seeking a five-year deal before he became a free agent.

"Mike did a really good job in



Larkin

with the AL Central and with Detroit.

Ordonez hit .292 last year with nine homers and 37 RBIs, missing most of the season with a knee injury that required two operations.

"They talked to the doctors and were very comfortable Magglio is healthy," Boras said.

Larkin said he has turned down offers to start for several other teams because he can't envision himself playing anywhere but Cincinnati.

"I thought eventually I'd be able to say, 'yeah, I can do this,' the 40-year-old shortstop said. "But I'm big on loyalty. I couldn't

come to grips with making a 100 percent commitment" to another team.

Several teams are still interested in the former All-Star as a reserve, giving him a chance to help develop younger players.

Larkin sounds as if he's going to retire, and says he's "pretty close" to a final decision.

Larkin simply haven't made an announcement that I'm not going to play or retire because it's not that pressing of an issue," he said. "If it comes to the point that spring training starts and I'm not playing, then it will be obvious. I won't have no big fanfare, no major announcement."

Also Thursday, pitcher Hideo Nomo agreed to a minor league contract with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays that would pay him \$800,000 if he is added to the big league roster, and Japanese infielder Tadashi Iguchi finalized his \$4.95 million, two-year deal with the White Sox.

Infielder George Arias, a former star in the Japanese league, agreed to a minor league contract with the Washington Nationals; reliever Rick White

agreed to a minor league contract with Pittsburgh for \$175,000 (if added to the roster); and reliever Jay Powell reached a preliminary agreement on a minor league deal with the Atlanta Braves.

The New York Yankees reached preliminary agreements on minor league contracts with utilityman Damian Rous (560,000) and outfielder Doug Glavine (\$550,000).

Houston outfielder Lance Berkman was among five players in salary arbitration who settled, agreeing to a \$10.5 million, one-year contract. Houston will continue to work for a multiyear deal with the All-Star, who is expected to make the start of the season after mending his knee playing flag football.

Arizona right-hander Mike Kopeck got a \$2 million, two-year deal, Milwaukee outfielder Brady Clark agreed to a \$1.15 million one-year contract and Atlanta right-hander Kevin Grysinski accepted a \$877,500, one-year contract. Cincinnati backup catcher Josh Paul settled at \$450,000, leaving 26 players still scheduled for hearings next month.

Revolution scoring leader Moore announces retirement

The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — Joe-Max Moore announced his retirement from soccer Thursday, ending a career in which he had played in three World Cups and became the New England Revolution's career scoring leader.

Moore, 33, hurt his right knee last in 2003 and aggravated the injury last April in a game against the MetroStars. He had reconstructive ligament surgery last Friday.

"After numerous attempts to strengthen and stabilize my knee through rehab, it became clear that I had no alternative but to have reconstructive surgery," he said in a statement.

"Considering my age and the recovery time necessary, I have decided to end my playing career."

Moore was a two-time All-American at UCLA. He scored 24 goals in international competition for the U.S. national team, ranking him third in that category, and played in the 1994, 1998 and 2002 World Cup finals. He also played for the U.S. in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

His penalty kick against Jamaica on Oct. 7, 2001, at Foxboro Stadium was the game's clincher and a berth for the U.S. in the 2002 World Cup.

He joined the Revolution midway through Major League Soccer's inaugural season in 1996 and spent parts of six seasons with New England. His 117 points (41 goals, 35 assists) tops the team's career list.

From 1999-2001, he played for Everton of the English Premier League. Moore also played professionally in Germany and Ecuador.

Ex-Baylor player Dotson deemed ready for murder trial
WACO, Texas — A former Bay-

Sports briefs

lor basketball player accused of killing a teammate has regained his competence to stand trial and is ready to be returned from a state hospital, a psychologist says.

Carlton Dotson, 22, had been taken to North Texas State Hospital in Vernon after a defense psychologist, state psychiatrist and court-appointed independent psychiatrist all found that Dotson was incompetent to stand trial in the death of Patrick Denney.

Denney's body was found in a field near Baylor's Waco campus in July 2003. He had been missing for about six weeks.

In a report to District Judge George Allen, hospital psychologist Thomas Gray said Dotson is ready to be returned to the McLennan County Jail. Gray said Dotson must continue to receive psychiatric care, take prescribed anti-psychotic medication and wear a wristband that would alert the Waco Tribune-Herald reported in its Friday editions.

Trinidad will meet 154-pound champion Wright on May 14

LAS VEGAS — Former three-time world champion Felix Trinidad will fight for the second time since coming out of retirement when he meets reigning 154-pound champion Winky Wright on May 14.

The fight, announced Thursday by promoter Don King, will be held at 160 pounds with no titles at stake.

Trinidad came off a layoff of more than two years to knock out Ricardo Mayorga in the eighth round last October in a middleweight bout. A former champion at 147, 154 and 160 pounds, he is 41-1 with 34 knockouts, losing

only to middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins.

Wright (48-3, 25 knockouts) is coming off of consecutive victories over Shane Mosley.

The fight will be held at the MGM Grand Hotel and will be televised on HBO pay-per-view.

Quit-smoking product enters NASCAR

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — One year after kicking his 15 decades-long cigarette sponsorship habit, NASCAR apparently needs a little help staying smoke-free.

Nicorette gum became the first smoking cessation product to enter NASCAR when GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare signed a sponsorship deal Thursday with Chip Ganassi Racing.

Three of its quit-smoking products — the gum, the Nicorette CQ patch and Commit lozenges — will be advertised on the rear of NASCAR's top race car during the season. Nicorette will also be the primary sponsor on the No. 41 Dodge for one race in a deal estimated to cost the company \$3 million annually.

The anti-smoking products enter the sport one year after R.J. Reynolds' Winston brand ended a 33-year run as title sponsor of NASCAR's top race series. The wireless company Nextel replacing Winston, NASCAR has made an effort to distance itself from its tobacco-chewing, cigarette-smoking image.

Judge rules NCAA tapes will be allowed at Neuheisel trial

KENT, Wash. — A judge rejected Thursday the defense's bid to disallow the NFL's lawyers to play tape recordings made by NCAA investigators as evidence in the coach's lawsuit against the University of Washington and the NCAA.

The tapes came from Neu-

heisel's interview with NCAA investigators on June 4, 2003, in Seattle. Early on the tapes, Neuheisel is heard denying that he gambled on NCAA basketball games.

Later, after consulting with a lawyer, Neuheisel admitted doing so. He was fired later that month as Washington's football coach, with university officials saying he wasn't fully honest when first questioned.

Opening statements are scheduled for Monday.

Neuheisel maintains the university wrongfully terminated his contract, and that high-ranking NCAA officials improperly influenced his employment and his job prospects by encouraging Washington administrators to fire him. The NFL's Baltimore Ravens hired Neuheisel last week as quarterback coach.

Referee admits fixing soccer matches in Germany

FRANKFURT, Germany — A year before Germany hosts the World Cup, a referee's admission that he fixed games has the country reeling from its biggest sports scandal in more than 30 years.

Referee Robert Hoyzer said Thursday that he's ready to cooperate with prosecutors.

"The accusations made against me in the public are true," Hoyzer said in a statement issued by his lawyer. "I regret my behavior profoundly and I excuse myself to the German soccer federation, my referee colleagues and all soccer fans."

The German soccer federation (DFB) accused Hoyzer of manipulating the outcomes of at least five games in Germany's lower divisions and the German Cup after betting on them. He initially denied the charges.

Changes already have been made. The federation said it

would announce referee assignments two days before games, instead of a week, and it would install a system of monitoring games and referee performances.

Because of legal issues, there was no immediate ban on betting by referees. But the 14 referees who attended the DFB's emergency meeting said they had never placed bets and would not do so in the future.

Guard Randle likely to miss rest of '05-06 season

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Illinois guard Brian Randle said Thursday he likely will sit out the rest of the season after recovering from a broken left hand.

"I think it's the best thing for me the way things are going right now," said Randle, who broke his hand when he punched a wall in frustration during a preseason practice. "Conditioning how late it is in the year, I think right now reshifting probably is the best decision."

He does not play for the rest of the season for the top-ranked Illini, the sophomore can ask the NCAA for a medical exemption to preserve his three remaining years of eligibility.

Germany applies to hold 2016 world swimming worlds

FRANKFURT, Germany — Germany has applied to have Berlin stage this year's swimming world championships, which were taken away from Montreal because of local organizers' failure to raise enough money.

Berlin proposed to host the event July 17-31, the same dates as for Montreal.

Another possible site is Athens, host of the 2004 Olympics.

FINA pulled the championship from Montreal on Jan. 19 after Canadian organizers offered a \$5 million short of meeting their \$30 million budget.

In do-or-die game, Ga. Tech does it

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Although it's still January, Georgia Tech needed this game in the worst way.

The Yellow Jackets had lost three in a row, squandered a 17-point lead over Wake Forest and were on the verge of a crushing defeat when Jarrett Jack stepped to the free-throw line with 4.4 seconds left in overtime.

"I told myself that I had to come through for my team," Jack said. "The mark of a great team is being able to put the past behind you."

After gathering himself with a stroll toward the opposite foul line, Jack calmly made both free throws to give No. 22 Georgia Tech a 102-101 victory over the fifth-ranked Demon Deacons on Thursday night.

Wake Forest got the last shot, but Chris Paul missed at the buzzer. He also had a chance to win it at the end of regulation, but that attempt fell off the rim, too.

"Coach said, 'Get the ball and try to get to the basket,'" Paul said. "I just missed it."

Georgia Tech (12-5, 3-3) built a 34-17 lead in the first half, but Wake Forest (16-3, 4-2) rallied behind Eric Williams, who scored 27 points and was nearly unstoppable on the inside.

Williams didn't get much help from Paul. The leading vote-getter on the AP's preseason All-America team managed only eight points, missing nine of 11 shots.

Will Bynum scored a career-high 30 points for Georgia Tech and spent time guarding Paul.

"We take pride in stopping great players," Bynum said. "He's a great player, so we try to



Georgia Tech's Jarrett Jack is mobbed by fans after the Yellow Jackets beat No. 5 Wake Forest 102-101 in overtime on Thursday night. Jack hit two free throws in the final seconds of overtime to decide the game.

play him as physically as possible. Don't let him get into rhythm. Be there in his face every time."

Georgia Tech's student body stormed the court after the final miss, setting off a raucous celebration that lasted several minutes. Wary players from both teams struggled just to make it to their locker rooms.

The Yellow Jackets started the season in the top five, but three straight ACC losses sent them tumbling in the rankings. They had to bounce back from a stunning upset at home by Virginia Tech last Saturday.

"This may have been make or break for our season," Bynum said. "If we had lost this game, it

could have destroyed our confidence."

It was a game that didn't want to end, stretching on for nearly three hours and leaving both teams huffing and puffing. Georgia Tech's Isma'il Muhammad hobbled off the court with severe leg cramps, but the pain subsided after he was injected with fluids. He finished the game with both arms wrapped in tape.

After Jack put the Yellow Jackets ahead, Wake Forest took off on the court. Paul missed a desperation shot as the horn sounded, but the refs signaled that the Demon Deacons had called a timeout.

The clock was reset to 2.8 sec-

onds and Wake Forest inbounded the ball near midcourt. Jack fell down trying to keep up with Paul, but it didn't matter when the final shot fell harmlessly off the rim.

Clearly, the Yellow Jackets seem to have figured out Paul, who was held to a career-low two points in the game at Atlanta last year.

"We have a lot of big bodies," Jack said. "That's something he's not used to... Size bothers anybody."

Williams' size bothered the Yellow Jackets. The 6-foot-9, 291-pound junior repeatedly muscled through double- and triple-teams to reach the basket.

"I couldn't let them stop me," he said. "No matter how many guys they put on me, I had to get around them."

Williams met his match near the end of a game — a cramp that forced him to the bench.

"I was crying after the game. I felt I let my team down," he said. "I was disappointed about having to come out."

Justin Gray added 22 points for Wake Forest.

"I'm proud of our guys," Wake Forest coach Skip Prosser said. "We battled back and certainly had a chance to win it in the end."

No. 15 Michigan St. 64, Michigan 53: Maurice Ager scored 18 points and the Spartans (13-3, 5-1 Big Ten) won for the 11th time in 12 games.

Dion Harris and Courtney Sims each had 12 points for the visiting Wolverines (12-8, 3-3), who lost to their in-state rival for the 11th time in 12 games.

No. 21 Cincinnati 74, South Florida 48: Eric Hicks had 19 points and 11 rebounds for the visiting Bearcats (16-3, 5-1 Conference USA), who beat South Florida for the 14th straight time.

Brian Swift had 27 points for South Florida (8-9, 1-5), which has lost five straight.

Accuracy at line key as Arizona fights back

By Bob Bauman
The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — A year ago, Washington dominated Arizona in a way no team had since Luke Olson started coaching the Wildcats. That 0-3 performance officially became history Thursday night when No. 11 Arizona beat the 10th-ranked Huskies 91-82 to take sole possession of first place in the Pac-10.

"Last year was last year," Olson said. "We are a different team. We are better defensively. We have better depth."

And the Wildcats are very good free-throw shooters.

They made 38 of 40 from the line, a school record for at least 30 attempts. Arizona made 31 straight between Hassan Adams' miss of the front end of a 1-and-1 with 9:12 left in the first half and Mustafa Shakur's miss of the second of two free throws with 33 seconds to play.

"Coach is going to make Hassan miss," Olson said. "It's not missing those," center Channing Frye said jokingly. "That percentage is what we have to expect from each other. We need kept type concentration. Without the free throws, I'm not sure we could have made this close."

After a near-invincible first half, Frye scored 14 of his 18 points in the second.

"It feels good to beat those guys," Frye said. "It was a weird night. What happened last year it was on our minds. This was a big win."

Salim Stoudamire scored 25 points for Arizona, capped by a three-point play on a leaning baseline bank shot with 44 seconds left. Fouled by Nate Robinson as he crashed to the floor, Stoudamire made the free throw to put the Wildcats up 88-82.

"I didn't care what happened last year. This is a new year," Stoudamire said. "The only reason I thought it was a big game was because it was for first place."

Stoudamire was 9-for-9 at the line, and Frye was 8-for-8.

"Salim is playing at a very, very high level," Huskies coach Lorenzo Roman said. "I think that as a result, the chemistry of that team is at a high right now."

Shakur added 19 points for Arizona, which trailed by as many as 11 points in the first half and was down 47-40 at halftime.

Brandon Roy led Washington (16-3, 6-2) with 15 points, nine rebounds and seven assists but was just 5-for-14 from the field.

Bobby Jones and Tre Simmons each scored 13 points for the Huskies and Will Conroy had 12 points and nine assists. Robinson scored 10 points, nearly seven below his season average.

"It was very frustrating," Simmons said. "Every time they came down the court, they were on the line. But that's just something we've got to play through. We shouldn't have fouled so much."

STOCK CAR SALE! TAKE A SHORT CUT TO A GREAT DEAL.

IF YOU'RE ON DUTY OVERSEAS, HERE'S YOUR ROUTE TO A GREAT DEAL. VISIT YOUR VOLVO REPRESENTATIVE. PICK YOUR FAVORITE LUXURY VOLVO FROM OUR STOCK OF U.S. SPEC 2000 MODELS. SAVE UP TO \$500 FROM AUTOHAUS-HAESE AND \$500 FROM VICS ON TOP OF ALL THE BENEFITS OF VOLVO'S MILITARY PROGRAM. YOU NEED TO ACT NOW. THIS SPECIAL STOCK CAR OFFER IS VALID UNTIL FEBRUARY 4 ONLY. \$40, \$50 & \$600 NOT INCLUDED.

www.autohaus-haese.de • tds@autohaus-haese.de • TEL MAINZ-KASTEL 06134-28-4938 • TEL DARMSTADT 06151-95-10629



QUICK DELIVERY. INSTANT SAVINGS.
ALL 2005 MODELS. LIMITED AVAILABILITY.

VOLVO
for life

Hewitt holds off Roddick in semifinals

Australian to face Safin for men's singles title; Kuznetsova-Molik team takes women's doubles final

By PAUL ALEXANDER

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Lleyton Hewitt was at his aggressive, fast-pumping best Friday, withstanding 31 aces by Andy Roddick in a 3-6, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4), 6-1 victory to reach the Australian Open final.

Hewitt, who has angered three opponents with his shout to pump himself up, fired up the crowd. But one man was too vocal for Roddick's tastes — he complained about a fan shouting during his service motion on the seventh game of the third set.

Hewitt will face fourth-seeded Marat Safin on Sunday evening in a matchup of former top-ranked players, the first men's Grand Slam final scheduled for the night. Safin ended top-ranked Roger Federer's 26-match winning streak in the other semifinal. Hewitt is trying to become the first Australian man to win this major since Mark Edmondson in 1976. Pat Cash lost the 1987 and 1988 finals.

Hewitt dropped to his knees once his victory was secure, kissing the court and hitting a ball high into the air as the crowd roared.

"Always said I'd do anything to have chance to play in the first night here in history, and I've got my chance," Hewitt said. "It's awesome. It's a little bit hard to believe at the moment. I love this place."

The women's final pits top-ranked Lindsay Davenport against seventh-seeded Serena Williams on Saturday.

In the women's doubles final, U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova and Australia's Alicia Molik defeated Davenport and Corina Morariu 6-3, 6-4. Davenport and Morariu lost to Serena Williams and Venus Williams in the 2001 doubles final in Australia.

In between, Morariu underwent chemotherapy for leukemia and has had two shoulder operations.

Hewitt has won major titles at Wimbledon in 2002 and the U.S. Open in 2001. Safin won the 2000 U.S. Open and has lost two previous Australian finals, including last year against Federer.

"Marat's beaten the best player going around," Hewitt said.

"He's playing extremely well. I'm going to have to raise my level yet again and see what happens."

Roddick said the tiebreakers were the difference.

"I'm usually pretty money in those," Roddick said. "Either one of those would have given me a distinct advantage. I'm mad. I felt I was in there with a shot. He put himself in position to win big points. I donated a little more than I would have wanted."

Roddick came out hot, jumping ahead 2-0. The second-seeded American converted his fourth break-point opportunity when



Andy Roddick complains to the umpire about a spectator yelling during his serve during loss to Lleyton Hewitt in the men's singles semifinal in the Australian Open on Friday night. Hewitt won the match, 3-6, 7-6, 6-1 and will play Marat Safin of Russia in the final.

Hewitt hit a forehand that was called good but TV replays indicated was just long.

As he has done so often, Roddick relied on his blistering serve to get out of early trouble. He had six aces as he served at 5-3, which means to fend off four of Hewitt's five break points in the game. He then finished off the set with another two.

Roddick made it seven aces in a row with four in the next game.

But Hewitt had only three forced errors in the second set, which marked the first appearance of his trademark "Come on!" while pointing his fingers at his forehead in the 16th game — much later than usual.

The third-seeded Aussie still needed a tiebreaker — Roddick had won all three that he had played despite the Australian's

4-1 record in head-to-head meetings — to even the match. Hewitt had the only ace to pull ahead 6-3, and Roddick netted a backhand on the next point.

After cracking 23 aces in the first two sets, Roddick had only eight in the last two.

"It's never routine, especially playing a guy like Andy," Hewitt said. "He's got so much firepower, and I had to weather the storm."

Roddick went ahead in the third set, when Hewitt double-faulted at 3-0, 30-30. But serving at 4-2, 30-30, Roddick — clearly trying to put a little extra on his hind side — double-faulted twice to return the favor. He had only six double-faults in the previous five matches, but had nine against Hewitt.

Australian Open

Friday
At Melbourne Park
Melbourne, Australia
Purse: \$14.5 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles
Men
Lleyton Hewitt (3), Australia, def. Andy Roddick (2), United States, 3-6, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4), 6-1.

Doubles
Women
Svetlana Kuznetsova, Russia, and Alicia Molik (6), Australia, def. Lindsay Davenport and Corina Morariu (15), United States, 6-3, 6-4.

Mixed
Quarterfinals
Max Mirnyi, Belarus, and Martina Navratilova (9), United States, def. Wayne Black and Cara Black (2), Zimbabwe, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

Semifinals
Scott Draper and Samantha Stosur, Australia, def. Andy Ram, Israel, and Conchita Martinez, Spain, 7-5, 6-3.

At the changeover, Roddick complained to chair umpire Andreas Egli about a fan calling out during his service motion. When Egli indicated he couldn't control everyone in the crowd, Roddick responded: "You're telling me I can have someone shout during every one of my serves and you can't do anything about it?"

He complained again in the next game after someone shouted as he served at 40-0 after his 27th ace.

"It just took one jackass to shout out," Roddick said later, adding the crowd overall was "very respectful."

MILITEC-1
SYNTHETIC WEAPONS LUBRICANT

A Force Multiplier

The New Standard for
Desert Warfare

- Weapons do not jam
- Weapons clean up with a dry rag
- Dry impregnated lubrication™

Attention Troops

- Go to www.militec.com and click for your FREE supply of MILITEC-1.
- Or call us Collect for your FREE supply of MILITEC-1 at (301) 893-3910.
- Unlimited supply of MILITEC-1 for our Troops. Free shipping, too!

Militec, Inc.
11828 Pika Drive
Waldorf, Maryland 20602
(877) 222-5512
© 2005 Militec, Inc.

NSNC:

1 oz, case of 100, 9150-01-415-9112
4 oz, case of 12, 9150-01-415-9114

Mickelson trails Ogilvie in quest for Hope repeat

The Associated Press

LA QUINTA, Calif. — Phil Mickelson expects Joe Ogilvie to win a tournament any day now. He just hopes it's not this Sunday.

Mickelson, going for his second consecutive Bob Hope Chrysler Classic victory and third in four years, is three shots behind Ogilvie heading into the third round of the five-day tournament.

Ogilvie shot a 9-under 63 on Thursday to go to 17-under 127 through two rounds. Mickelson had a 64 and was tied for second with Fredrik Jacobson of Sweden, who had a 62.

Mickelson thinks Ogilvie is due.

"I thought he was going to win New Orleans last year, the way he played," Mickelson said. "He lost by a shot to a very hot Vijay Singh, but I think he's ready to win now."

"It's going to take all I can do to fight him off."

Ogilvie, whose tie for second at New Orleans last year was his best finish on the tour, said he was not conceding that he was the second-round leader of the Hope.

Players rotate among four

Golf roundup

courses the first four days of the 90-hole event, with some of the layouts more difficult.

"Mickelson shot a 64 today at La Quinta," said Ogilvie, who had his 63 at Bermuda Dunes. "I'd say technically he's probably leading. Score-wise, I am, but technically I'd say he's leading."

"That's Duke math," the former economics major said, grinning.

Mickelson summed it up differently.

"I feel like I'm three back," he said.

Pred Couples and Billy Mayfair were in a group of five at 13 under. Couples had a 66 and Mayfair a 64.

Ogilvie began the tournament with a 64 and was at 127 for two rounds. His 17 under is the third-most shots below par through 36 holes in PGA Tour history.

Tom Lehman was 19 under after two rounds at Las Vegas in 2001, after Joe Durant was 18

under through 36 holes on his way to winning the Hope earlier that year. Lehman's 125 tied Tiger Woods and Mark Calcavecchia for low 36-hole score, with Woods' coming on a par-70 course and Calcavecchia on a par-71 layout.

Ogilvie, 30, wasn't surprised by the low total through two rounds of the Hope this time, although he chuckled and said, "I'm just surprised that I did it."

"You look at the history of golf — I don't think I'm going to be in any encyclopedias of golf," he said.

Ogilvie finished his round with a gamble that paid off on No. 18, lofting a 5-wood over palm trees to within 5 feet of the pin and then rolling in the eagle putt.

He's coming off his most successful year on the tour, with the \$1.4 million he earned in 2004 more than his previous four years combined.

Dougherty surges into lead in Caltex Masters

SINGAPORE — England's Nick Dougherty made a 5-under 67 Friday, including a long eagle, to

take a one-stroke lead in Singapore's Caltex Masters.

Dougherty was a 9-under 135 through two rounds.

Defending champion Colin Montgomerie was second at 136 following a second-round 71.

Denmark's Thomas Bjorn, who shot 66, was joined in third place by China's Liang Wenchong (68), Jamie Donaldson of Wales (68) and Danny Chia of Malaysia (70). Teeing off from the back nine, Dougherty added six birdies to his eagle against one bogey.

Dougherty hit a monster 3-wood to eagle the par-5 seventh with a 288-yard third shot that found the cup.

"It was the best feeling I've ever had. I hit it great," he said. "I think Vijay (Singh) or Tiger (Woods) would be pretty pleased with that one."

Montgomerie, the overnight leader after a superb round of 65 on the first day, had trouble with his approach shots Friday.

"I didn't hit irons close enough, that was all, and I three-putted twice. I didn't get the pace of the greens at all today," said the Scotsman, who carded two bogeys and three birdies.

Miller not the only star as worlds begin

BY ERICA BULMAN
The Associated Press

BORMIO, Italy — A month ago, the Alpine Skiing World Championships seemed destined to become the Bode Miller Show. Now it appears an ensemble cast of talent will take turns in the spotlight when the 16-day event begins Saturday.

Opening the World Cup season with four victories in five races — one in giant slalom, two in downhill and another in super-G — Miller seemed unbeatable. He won the slalom in Sestriere, Italy to capture victories in four disciplines in 16 days, the shortest span ever.

The idea of Miller making a clean sweep of the six events in the world championships did not sound outrageous.

"For the moment, I'm just happy to have achieved something which was important to me since I started to race all specialties," Miller said after his remarkable start. "I knew I could do it and I'm happy to prove that I was right."

But now, without a victory since Dec. 13, Miller looks a bit less formidable.

Skiers from seven nations have won men's World Cup races this season; 12 countries have top-three finishes. Austrians Michael Walchhofer and Benjamin Raich — now within 100 points of Miller in the overall standings — as well as Miller's American teammate, Daron Rahivles, and Canadian Thomas Grandt have all shown they're capable of winning.

Italians Giorgio Rocca and Massimiliano Blardone will be looking to shine on home snow and Norway's Lasse Kjus and Kjetil Andre Aamodt are possible spoilers.

Sweden's Anja Paerson and Croatia's



Although he's not won a race since Dec. 13, Bode Miller remains a medal favorite in four events in the Alpine World Ski Championships, which open Saturday at Bormio, Italy.

Janica Kostelic are the two main overall threats in the women's events, which begin with a super-G on Sunday. Up-and-coming American Lindsey Kildow, who has one victory and seven podium finishes this season, will also be a threat in downhill and super-G.

"It gives me a lot of confidence knowing the hill and that I'm fast on it," Kildow said.

Miller never lacks for confidence, but he simply hasn't been the same since winning the season's first two downhills. He's returned to the podium only once in Alpine skiing's banner event, a third in Wengen.

"Bode enters the season at a naturally strong level," U.S. men's coach Phil McNichol said. "Others catch up later in the season as they evolve, spend more time training, sort out their equipment. Because Bode races everything, he doesn't have much time to train or test equipment."

Walchhofer — who, as defending world champion, won't need to fight for a downhill berth on the deep Austrian quad — is a gold medal favorite after winning the long and grueling Lauberhorn at Wengen.

The World Cup discipline leader was also runner-up behind teammate Johann Grugger in a dress rehearsal here a month

ago. Grugger, also victorious in Chamonix, is another contender.

"It was great to win my first downhill on this course. I hope it's a sign," Grugger said.

Miller, meanwhile, is as excited as anybody.

"It's a classic," Miller said of the notorious Stelvio slope. "It's tough physically and technically. That's what makes a great downhill. It's going to be an awesome world because it's anybody's race. You never know who's going to win here."

Once a dominant gate specialist, Miller is now struggling in slalom after switching ski brands and focusing more heavily on the speed events. He has finished just one slalom — at Sestriere — in seven attempts this season.

"It depends on the conditions and the course," Miller said. "Slalom and GS can be frustrating because there are two runs. You can win the first run, but it doesn't mean anything if you don't finish the second. I'm just trying to make it to the finish every day. It's easy to make a mistake and crash. If I make it to the finish, I'm pretty happy."

Raich, Rocca and the rising Manfred Pranger — fresh off tough slalom victories in Kitzbuehel and Schladming — are heavy favorites.

Also in the hunt are Rainer Schoenfelder, Finland's Kalle Palander and defending champ Ivica Kostelic of Croatia, returning to form following knee surgery.

Miller's surest shot to win a medal probably is in the giant slalom, in which he's the defending world champion. He's won twice and finished in the top three in all but two GS races this season.

Attention Active Duty Military!

Earn Your M.A. in Education ONLINE!

Touro University International has the Online Education program for you

- High quality, flexible and user friendly
- M.A. degrees in Education with various concentrations
- Maximum transferability of previously earned education credits
- Special rates for military spouses and retirees
- DANTES Affiliated
- All courses ONLINE!

NO TUITION COST TO YOU! UP TO 28 CREDITS PER YEAR



TOURO UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL
The University of Choice for the U.S. Military

www.tourou.edu

5665 Plaza Dr., Third Floor, Cypress, CA 90630
800-579-3161 • 714-226-9840 • 714-226-9844 Fax

College of Education e-mail: infocoe@tourou.edu
For inquiries log on to: <http://inquiry.tourou.edu>



Now Accepting
Applications
for Spring
Session.

Pistons challenge Pacers' patience

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Pacers expected to struggle a bit after losing five players to suspensions in November.

Two months and a bunch of losses later, the team's patience is being seriously tested.

Chauncey Billups scored 20 points Thursday night as the Detroit Pistons rolled to an 88-76 victory for their second straight victory at Indiana.

"I feel bad for everybody who has to watch us play. It's a tough time for us," Pacers forward Jermaine O'Neal said.

"We've got to figure a way to get out of this funk. I do believe there's going to be better days."

The Pacers have lost three straight and five of seven, dropping under .500 for the second time this season after losing their second straight to the Pistons since the Nov. 19 brawl between Pacers players and Detroit fans.

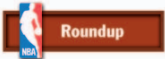
Five Indiana players were suspended, but the Pacers were nearly back to full strength Thursday night for the first time since the November melee. It didn't help much.

Two players involved in the brawl, O'Neal and Stephen Jackson, carried the scoring burden for Indiana. O'Neal finished with 27 points and nine rebounds, while Jackson had 11 points and five rebounds. The only other player in double figures was Fred Jones, who came off the bench to score 14 points.

To coach Rick Carlisle, losing a third straight game was tough. "We lost again," Carlisle said.

"Detroit is a big team, a tremendous team. They played really well," Carlisle said. "They've got all their guys. We couldn't match that tonight."

All five Pistons starters reached double figures. Richard Hamilton had 17 points and six assists, while Tayshaun Prince had 16 points and seven rebounds. Ben Wallace had 10 points and 11 rebounds and was booed each time he scored.



Detroit tried to take advantage of the Prince-Jackson matchup, since it was just Jackson's second game back after his 30-game suspension for the brawl.

"If anything, I wanted to get this game today, being out of three games took its toll," Jackson said. "I've got to work harder to get back in shape."

The Pistons also exploited another mismatch, Jamaal Tinsley on Billups. Tinsley missed Wednesday night's game with the flu and was ineffective Thursday. He missed all six of his shots, finished with two points and spent most of the night in foul trouble.

Again, it was an emotional game with five technical fouls called. Near the end of the game, Pistons players joined with Pacers fans, sometimes playfully.

"I like playing here, it's a good rivalry," Rasheed Wallace said. "Their fans are real rowdy and so are the opposing team and I like coming in here and playing against these guys."

In this series, though, home-court advantage has meant nothing.

The road team has won all three games this season, and Thursday night was Exhibit A in that case.

Reggie Miller, who denied a broadcast report that he decided to retire for this season, and Rasheed Wallace were each called for technicals in the first nine minutes. By halftime, Carlisle had also drawn a technical.

O'Neal, who missed 15 games because of the November fight, was called for another technical early in the third quarter.

Between the calls, though, Detroit used runs of 13-2 and 6-0 to build a 39-25 lead.

The Pacers rallied just before halftime, scoring the last five points to close to 47-40. But Detroit opened the second half by



Indiana Pacers forward Stephen Jackson (1) fouls Detroit Pistons forward Rasheed Wallace in the first quarter in Indianapolis on Thursday.

scoring five straight points and pulled away with a 7-0 spurt that made it 66-51, with 2:18 left in the third quarter. The Pacers got no closer than eight the rest of the way.

"You put any pro team, I don't care what league, in our position, there are going to be some struggles," O'Neal said.

"We've just got to keep fighting. Hopefully, February will be a lot better than January."

Spurs 90, Kings 80: At San Antonio, Manu Ginobili scored 25 points and Tim Duncan added 20 for the Spurs, who fended off a late rally.

Sacramento, which lost to San Antonio by 30 at home Sunday, made it more of a contest despite playing without Peja Stojakovic, who sat out with back spasms.

The Kings cut San Antonio's

lead to 78-77 when Chris Webber stole the ball and passed to Brad Miller for a layup with 5:06 left. The Spurs then went on an 8-0 run as Robert Horry made three free throws, Bruce Bowen hit a three-point and Duncan worked inside for a layup.

Bulls 101, Bobcats 93: At Chicago, Jannero Pargo scored all 14 of his points in the fourth quarter and Andres Nocioni added 17 points off the bench as Chicago got 63 points from its reserves.

Eric Piatkowski added 16 points for Chicago, which extended its winning streak to five games. The Bulls have won 12 of their last 13, and eight straight at home.

The Bobcats have dropped 10 straight and have the NBA's worst record at 1-18. They have lost 16 of 17 overall since winning three of four games from Dec. 14-22.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	19	13	.594	—
Philadelphia	18	14	.563	1/2
Toronto	17	14	.541	2 1/2
New York	16	16	.500	4

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	13	19	.405	—
Washington	12	15	.444	1 1/2
Orlando	11	16	.407	3 1/2
Charlotte	8	23	.258	21 1/2

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	16	10	.610	—
Minnesota	14	12	.538	2 1/2
Chicago	12	19	.385	5 1/2
Indiana	11	16	.407	6 1/2
Milwaukee	10	15	.400	9 1/2

Western Conference

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	15	10	.600	—
Dallas	13	13	.500	2 1/2
Houston	14	19	.423	5 1/2
Memphis	10	15	.400	8 1/2
New Orleans	14	17	.450	6 1/2

Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	20	12	.625	—
Portland	19	13	.594	1 1/2
Utah	18	14	.563	3 1/2

Northwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	14	10	.583	—
Sacramento	13	13	.500	1 1/2
L.A. Lakers	12	15	.444	3 1/2
L.A. Clippers	10	15	.400	5 1/2
Golden State	10	16	.385	6 1/2

Thursday's games	Score	Time
Detroit 80, Sacramento 80	Final	8:00
Chicago 93, Charlotte 83	Final	8:00
Toronto 87, Orlando 80	Final	8:00

Friday's games	Score	Time
Toronto at Charlotte	8:00	
Washington at Orlando	8:00	
Cleveland at New York	8:00	
Phoenix at Boston	8:00	
Philadelphia at New Orleans	8:00	
Denver at Milwaukee	8:00	
New Jersey at L.A. Lakers	8:00	
Seattle at Golden State	8:00	

Saturday's games	Score	Time
Orlando at Washington	8:00	
New York at Detroit	8:00	
Atlanta at Memphis	8:00	
Boston at Dallas	8:00	
New Orleans at San Antonio	8:00	
New Jersey at Utah	8:00	
Golden State at L.A. Clippers	8:00	

Sunday's games	Score	Time
Houston at Minnesota	8:00	
Phoenix at Sacramento	8:00	
Milwaukee at Portland	8:00	
Charlotte at L.A. Lakers	8:00	

Thursday	Score	Time
Pistons 88, Pacers 76	Final	8:00

Pistons 88, Pacers 76	Score	Time
Detroit 88, Indiana 76	Final	8:00

Friday	Score	Time
Bulls 101, Bobcats 93	Final	8:00

Saturday	Score	Time
Spurs 90, Kings 80	Final	8:00

Sunday	Score	Time
Warriors 101, Grizzlies 91	Final	8:00

Monday	Score	Time
Trail Blazers 101, Timberwolves 91	Final	8:00

Tuesday	Score	Time
Knicks 101, Nets 91	Final	8:00

Wednesday	Score	Time
Heat 101, Magic 91	Final	8:00

Thursday	Score	Time
Pacers 76, Pistons 88	Final	8:00

Friday	Score	Time
Clippers 101, Lakers 91	Final	8:00

Saturday	Score	Time
Grizzlies 101, Warriors 91	Final	8:00

Sunday	Score	Time
Timberwolves 101, Trail Blazers 91	Final	8:00

Monday	Score	Time
Nets 101, Heat 91	Final	8:00

Tuesday	Score	Time
Magic 101, Heat 91	Final	8:00

Wednesday	Score	Time
Trail Blazers 101, Timberwolves 91	Final	8:00

Rockets: Offense still struggles

ROCKETS, FROM BACK PAGE

"I think those guys have had an impact obviously," Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy said. "Wesley has made a big impact defensively. Barry has improved our passing — both those guys are pretty safe with the ball. To me, that's where I've noticed our improvement."

But only a little more than midway through the season, Houston still has much to prove on the way to the playoffs.

Typical of most Van Gundy-coached teams, the Rockets are a top-notch defensive club — third-best in the NBA. But they're mediocre — at best — everywhere else: 25th out of 30 teams in scoring, 22nd in rebounding, 26th in steals and 19th in blocks — even with 7-6 Yao guarding the basket.

It's important to note, though, that the Rockets have made significant strides offensively. They're

averaging 96.2 points over the past 21 games compared to 86.9 in the first 22.

"Those guys have opened it up a lot for myself and Yao," McGrady said of Wesley and Barry. "We see a lot less double-teams."

The Rockets also have been frustratingly inconsistent. They have won both games against San Antonio, the NBA's best team, and been swept in two games by Charlotte, an expansion club.

Houston will face teams fighting for the playoffs in 18 of its next 20 games, including a brutal four-game road trip next week to Miami, Boston, Philadelphia and Minnesota.

For the league's oldest and most-experienced team, that kind of grind could prove to be a daunting task.

"We're not doing bad," Van Gundy said. "We've just got to work to improve. We're not there and we've got a long way to go."



Houston Rockets' Yao Ming, rear, defends against New Orleans Hornets' Casey Jacobsen, right.

Karl rejoins NBA with new appreciation

By JOHN MARSHALL
The Associated Press

DENVER — George Karl had been involved with basketball since the seventh grade, so not having it in his life for nearly two years left him feeling empty.

Now that he's headed back to the NBA, Karl has a greater appreciation for what the game has meant to him.

Out of the NBA since the Bucks fired him in 2003, Karl was back in Milwaukee on Thursday to take over as coach of the underachieving Denver Nuggets. He's expected to be on the bench Friday night, making his debut with the Nuggets against his former team.

"The last 18 months was the first time I was not with a basketball team for 38 years, so not having it in his life for nearly two years left him feeling empty."

The Nuggets hope his enthusiasm rubs off.

One of the favorites in the Western Conference at the start of the season, Denver hasn't lived up to the expectations that came with adding All-Star power forward Kenyon Martin to a team that had reached the playoffs for the first time in nine years.

Plagued by injuries and inconsistencies,



George Karl answers questions at a news conference Thursday in Milwaukee. Karl was hired as coach of the Denver Nuggets.

The Nuggets got off to a horrible start and haven't really recovered. Coach Jeff Bzdelik lost his job Dec. 28 and Denver has been only marginally better under interim coach Michael Cooper, entering Friday's game 17-25 and 12½ games out of first place in the Northwest Division.

Karl brings plenty of credibility, ranking

13th with 708 career wins and leading his teams to five division titles and 13 playoff appearances in 16 seasons. He has also had experience turning around underachieving teams.

Karl helped Seattle reach the playoffs in 1991-92 after a 20-20 start and coach K.C. Jones his job, and led the Sonics to three 60-win seasons in five years, including a trip to the 1996 NBA Finals.

"He's clearly one of the best coaches in the NBA, has always been so and his record exhibits that," Nuggets General Manager Kiki Vandeweghe said. "We are very excited to have him with us."

Karl can be feisty and confrontational, but it might be just what the Nuggets need.

With a lineup that includes Martin, Carmelo Anthony, Andre Miller and Marcus Camby, Denver certainly doesn't lack talent. What the Nuggets seem to need is motivation.

Things got better under Cooper, who will stay on as an assistant, but Denver still only won four of 14 games and had trouble closing out the close ones. Injuries have taken a toll, but there were too many times when players stood around on defense or failed to run hard on the break.

Karl isn't likely to stand for lackadaisical

effort. He's had clashes with players at just about every stop in his coaching career, particularly in Milwaukee, but always seems to get the best out of them. Besides, the time off has allowed him to take a look at his approach, which he says is changing.

Karl already has set his sights on getting Anthony to shape up.

A star as a rookie last season, Anthony has had some growing pains this year. He had a difficult summer that included a clash with coach Larry Brown at the Olympics, a fight at a New York nightclub, then was caught with marijuana in his backpack during the preseason (the charge was dropped after a friend said the pot was his).

Anthony has had plenty of troubles on the court as well, struggling with shooting woes and ankle injuries. If the Nuggets are going to have success, Karl knows it will start with Anthony.

"I'm going to be demanding of certain things that he might not be happy with, but I also respect that he's a great talent," Karl said. "He being successful will only make him more confident. He's going to communicate with him, coach him, mentor him, try to teach him professionalism. I see a great player that has plateaued."

Associated Press Writer Ryan Nakashima in Milwaukee contributed to this story.

Bulls finally figuring out that patience will trump panic

KEEP IN MIND THAT COACH Scott Skiles gets paid a lot to make sure the glass always looks half-full. Anybody else who says they saw the Chicago Bulls in the playoffs hunt midway through the season is either lying or not having a doctor's note explaining they've been in a coma.

The reason has little to do with the speed of the Bulls' turnaround or the lack of precedent. The NBA's mantra, after all, is "everybody makes a run," and just last season, the Miami Heat stumbled 0-7 leaving the game and still managed to close a respectable 42-40 and make the playoffs.

So why not the Bulls? Before we tackle that question, a word from Skiles.

"That 0-9 start was probably the scariest thing we'd had to endure during this season," Skiles said after practice the other day. "But even then, we never saw ourselves being any worse than that. At least it didn't feel that way. So that gave us a mental head start in turning things around. We always had confidence that we are a winning team."

With Thursday night's visit by the Charlotte Bobcats marking the official midpoint of the season, the Bulls suddenly look like a very good team. They beat the Bobcats 101-93 and have won five straight, 12 of 13, and 18 of the last 22. Even in a weak Eastern Conference and a league filled with surprises, that has to be the most surprising development of all.

With Thursday night's victory, the Bulls suddenly look like a very good team. They beat the Bobcats 101-93 and have won five straight, 12 of 13, and 18 of the last 22. Even in a weak Eastern Conference and a league filled with surprises, that has to be the most surprising development of all.

Jim Litke



age. But playing great defense is a symptom of a team and not the cause of the Bulls' success.

Credit belongs mostly to Skiles and general manager John Paxson, who as recently as six weeks ago had no reason to believe their commitment and tough love were about to be rewarded.

Franchises reach tipping points all the time, and at that moment, this future of Chicago's looked a lot more like the Clippers than one just a half-dozen years removed from the salad days of Michael Jordan. What the Bulls had in common with the Clippers was a handful of losing seasons, a team loaded with high school phenoms, draft picks and disgruntled veterans who viewed Chicago as a rest stop on the way to somewhere else.

Paxson turned out to be shrewder than his predecessor Jerry Krause. He found better players in the draft and patiently pruned the roster instead of cutting down the tree and starting over more time. Then he cut meddling and let the hard-nosed Skiles do the rest.

Even so, as recently as December, the Bulls were flopping and offers were coming in for Eddy Curry and Tyson Chandler, the high school phenoms who needed development was the legacy of the last administration. Paxson surrounded them with a better mix of veterans and rookies that turned out to be much better than advertised. And while some of Skiles' tenacity had clearly

rubbed off on the young Bulls and even the old ones, on paper nothing looked different.

It's coaches like to say that losing affords better teaching opportunities than winning, but the Bulls had lost so much that the opposite turned out to be true. Three of the rookies who came to Chicago — Dru's Luol Deng and Chris Duhon and Connecticut's Ben Gordon — came from winning programs and floor leader Kirk Hinrich is just two seasons removed from Kansas. Confidence is a fragile commodity everywhere in sports, but at those places, patience always trumps panic.

In Skiles, they found a coach willing to risk his own neck to buy them the time to work it out. And each, in turn, stepped up every night as a kind of payback. Those lessons have been reinforcing themselves ever since.

"In this stretch, we're just finding ways to win," Hinrich marveled. "Last year, we were finding ways to lose."

He got the wrong idea: The Bulls may look, and play, like one big happy family, but winning hasn't made Skiles go soft.

A few minutes after a grueling practice ended last Friday, at a time when his players used to head back to the locker room, the coach was still nearly full. Two days earlier, the Bulls' seven-game winning streak had been snapped in Boston, and the quiet bust ride on the way to the airport spoke volumes to Skiles.

"What was interesting to me was you could hear a pin drop in the bus. It was very quiet. You win seven in a row, you drop one, there could be a little 'No big deal.'"

"It is," Skiles said to everyone still within earshot, "a big deal."

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for the Associated Press. Write to him at: jlitke@aol.com

James likely to miss game with ankle injury

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — President Bush wasn't the only notable figure at the Cleveland Clinic on Thursday. LeBron James needed another checkup.

James underwent further medical tests on his sprained left ankle, which is not as badly hurt as it looked when the Cavaliers star crumpled to the floor in the fourth quarter Wednesday night.

James traveled with his teammates to New York but was not expected to play Friday night against the Knicks.

"From the looks of things, I doubt very seriously if he'll play tomorrow," coach Paul Silas said. "We were hoping and praying that it wasn't anything serious."

About the same time Bush was pitching his health agenda during a forum at the hospital, James had a thorough examination which did not reveal any more damage to his ankle.

He'll be re-evaluated by trainer Max Benton on Friday and is currently listed as a game-time decision. He came down on the foot of Memphis forward Dahntay Jones and rolled his ankle on Wednesday night.

Attorneys: Bryant accused settled with toddlers

DENVER — The woman accusing Kobe Bryant of rape reached a money settlement with the owners of The Globe and other tabloids that printed her picture and stories about her hotel encounter with the NBA star, Bryant's attorneys said Thursday.

The tabloid publisher American Media Inc. agreed to pay the

woman an undisclosed sum, according to court documents filed by the defense in the woman's civil lawsuit against Bryant.

Bryant's lawyers, who did not discuss the going-for-100 settlement, said the woman's attorneys should have notified them.

Liz Weisman, an attorney representing the woman, did not immediately return phone messages Thursday.

The suit seeks unspecified damages from Bryant for alleged emotional injuries the woman suffered since their encounter at a hotel near Van in June 2003. The Los Angeles Lakers star said the sex was consensual.

Information about the alleged settlement with American Media came in a court filing supporting Bryant's claim that media organizations and other outside sources were at least partly responsible for the woman's alleged injuries.

Wallace's brother in court

ROCHESTER, N.Y., Mich. — The brother of Detroit Pistons All-Star Ben Wallace appeared in court Thursday and was released on a \$500 personal bond after being charged with one of the most violent brawls in NBA history.

David Wallace was among 12 people — five Indiana Pacers players and seven fans attending the Pacers-Pistons game at The Palace of Auburn Hills on Nov. 19 — to be charged in the melee.

The brother of Detroit Pistons All-Star Ben Wallace appeared in court Thursday and was released on a \$500 personal bond after being charged with one of the most violent brawls in NBA history.

Another fan, 37-year-old Bryant Jackson, was ordered Tuesday to stand trial on a felonious assault charge for allegedly tossing a chair.

SPORTS



After two seasons of injuries, Eagles' Burgess seeing results, Page 29

Rockets lifting off



ORLANDO SENTINEL/KRT

The Houston Rockets started slowly despite picking up NBA scoring champ Tracy McGrady in the offseason. They are now five games over .500.

McGrady and teammates show some muscle, living up to preseason hype

BY JOEL ANDERSON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — David Wesley was grateful to leave the NBA's worst team for one considered a playoff contender when he was traded from New Orleans to Houston.

But to his astonishment, Wesley discovered that the trade last month simply moved him from one sub-.500 team for another.

"The first night I got here, my first question was, 'How are you guys losing?'" Wesley recalled asking his new Rockets teammates. "Man, I was surprised."

Despite an offseason trade for reigning NBA scoring champ Tracy McGrady that paired him with All-Star center Yao Ming, Houston got off to a 12-14 start and hardly resembled a team thought to be a preseason title favorite.

Look at those reeling Rockets now.

Since Wesley joined the team Dec. 27, the Rockets have won 11 of 15 games and worked themselves back into the crowded Western

Conference postseason picture. Heading into Friday night's game against Sacramento, Houston has matched a season high of four straight wins and moved five games over .500 (24-19) for the first time this season.

"It's just come together for us," point guard Bob Sura said. "We're playing the way we expected to play."

Of course, the addition of Wesley, a 6-foot-1 guard averaging 12 points in his 12th NBA season, has been only part of the recent resurgence of the Rockets.

McGrady has comfortably settled into a role as the team's top scorer without hogging the ball. Yao has emerged from an early season slump. Sura has finally recovered from off-season back surgery to become the team's steady floor leader.

And the trades for Wesley and guard Jon Barry from Atlanta — players from two of the league's worst teams — in late December have given the Rockets a much-needed boost of intensity, toughness and veteran moxie.

SEE ROCKETS ON PAGE 34



AP

Since acquiring guard David Wesley from New Orleans on Dec. 27, the Rockets have won 11 of their last 15 games and improved to 24-19.



Hewitt ousts Roddick for spot in Australian final

Page 32



Georgia Tech stuns No. 5 Wake for much-needed win

Page 31



Delgado finalizes \$52M, four-year deal with Mets

Page 30

Players reportedly reject NHL's latest cap offer Page 27

